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POE, LACSON/ A22

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Wednesday, April 28, 2004 ★★★ 56 pages / 5 sections / vol. 19 / no. 140 P18
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TORRID/ A8

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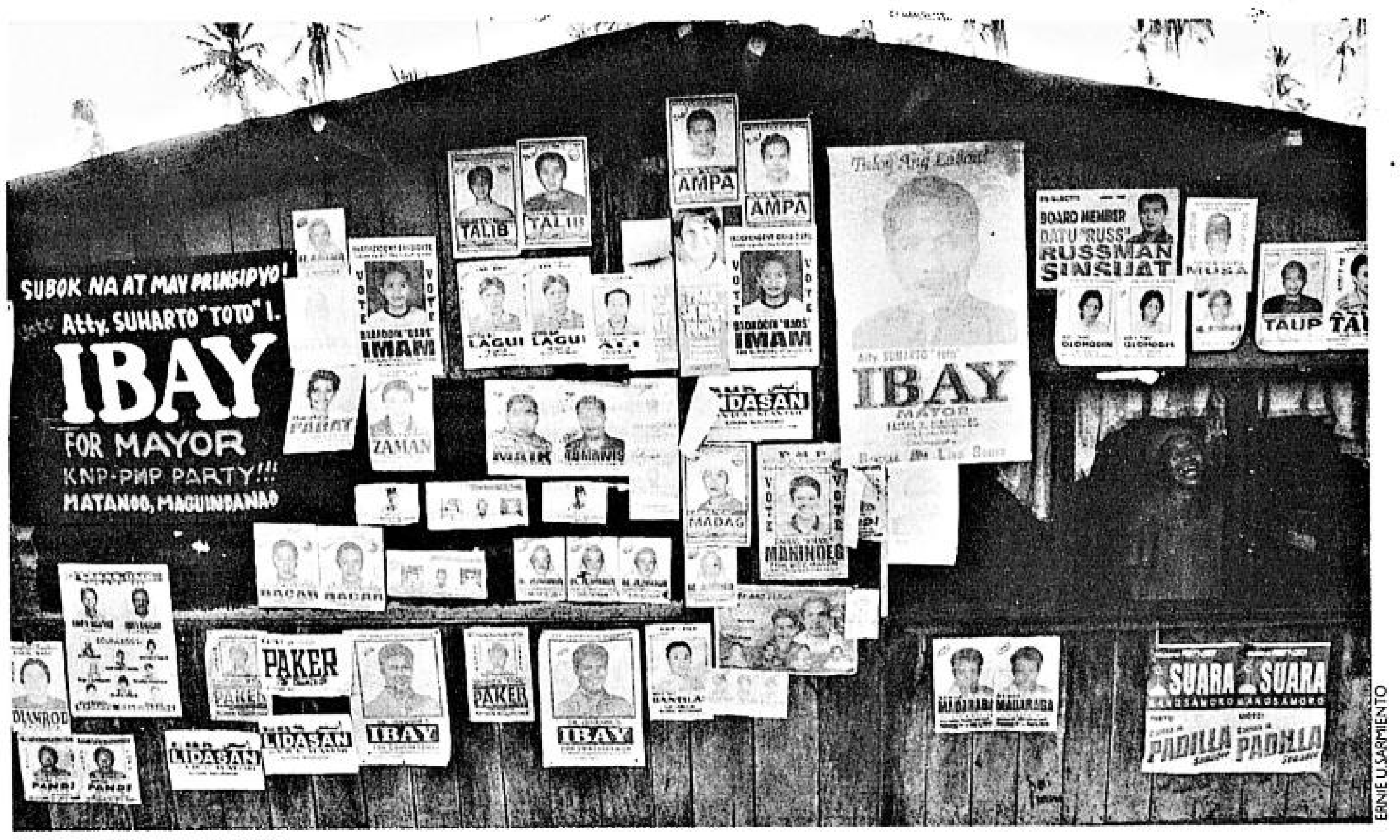
CANCER/ A22



ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

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PALACE/ A4

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42 OR 43-M/ A21

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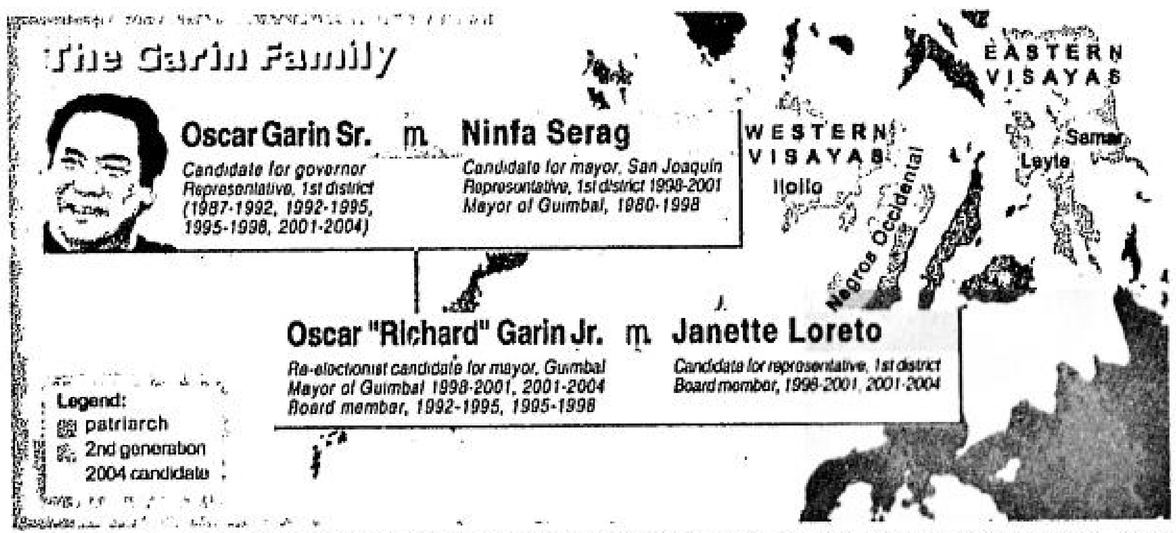
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By the PDI Visayas Bureau
Project Editor: Leah P. Makabenta

(Sixth of seven parts)

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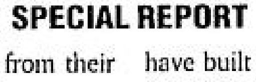

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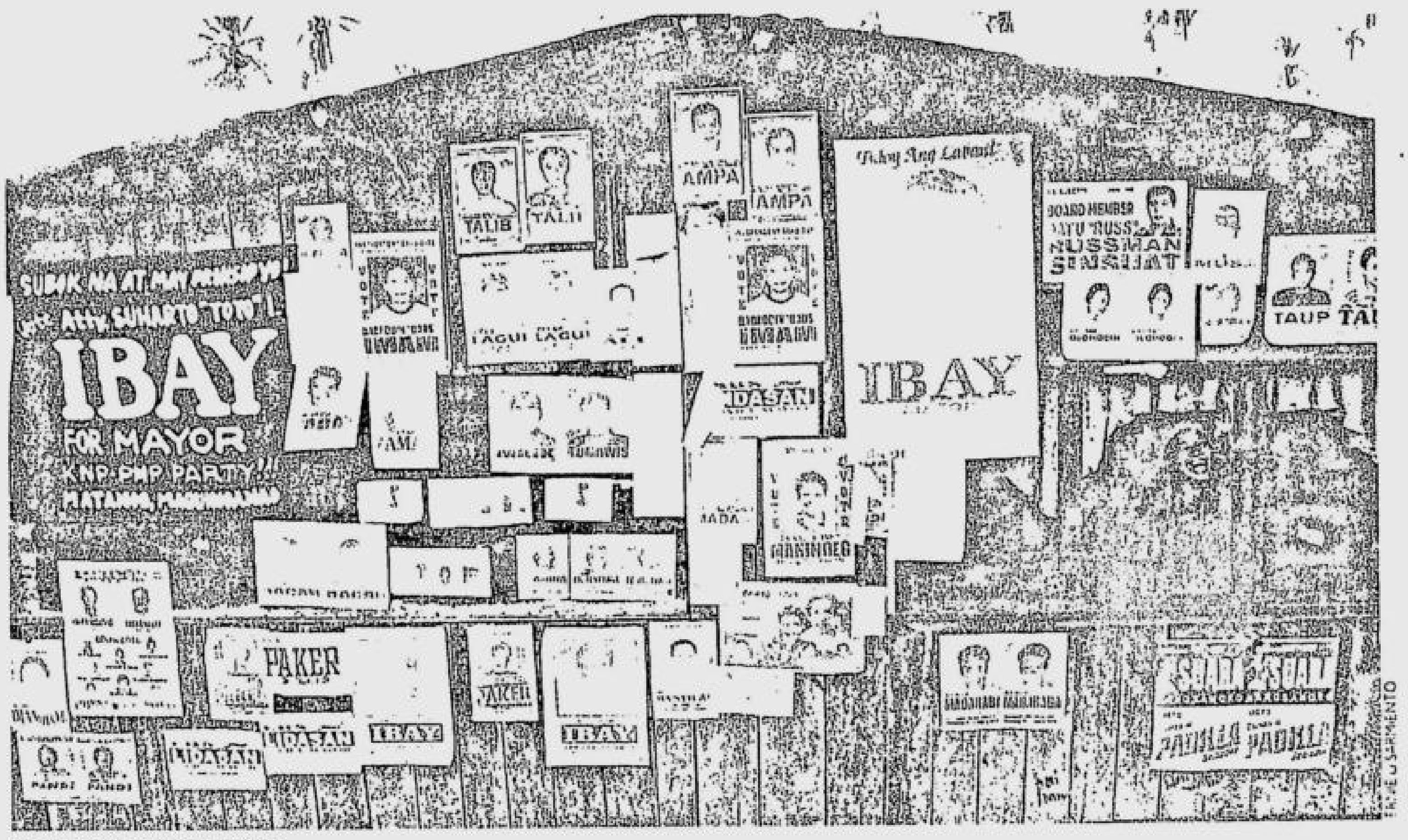

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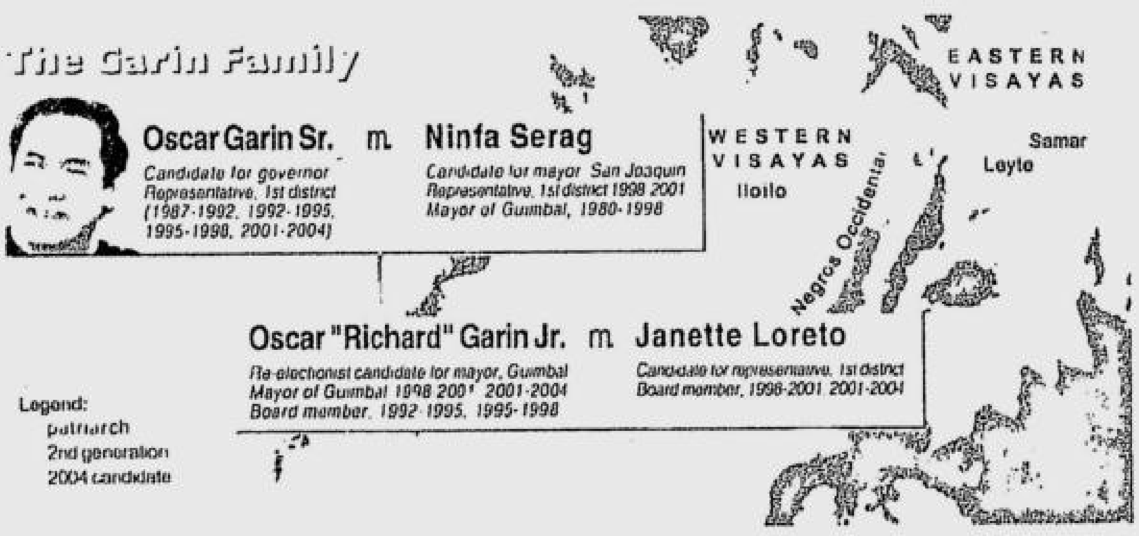

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The political influence

WESTERN A21

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol Region, Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/04/28/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

MILF splintered, says military

By Alcuin Papa and Rosa-May V. de Guzman, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

THE SECESSIONIST Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has splintered into smaller groups which its central leadership cannot control, the military said yesterday.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Public Information Office chief Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said this was learned from one of the four suspected MILF members arrested last week who are also believed to be operatives of the Jemaah Islamiya regional terror group.

"We are confirming some revelations made by Sammy Abdulgani which showed that the MILF is not a solid organization. It is composed of so many factions whose members refuse to take orders from the group's leadership," Lucero told reporters yesterday.

Aside from Abdulgani, the military arrested Datu Puti Ungka, Montasser Ismael and Barodin Dalungan, claiming they were JI members planning to launch bomb attacks in Mindanao.

The MILF asked the government to release the four, denying they were JI operatives.

Lucero said there were MILF members who were also members of the JI. The JI, based in Indonesia, has its tentacles in many Southeast Asian countries and is believed to have links to Osama bin Laden's international terror network.

"We are calling on the MILF leadership to cleanse its ranks so that we can be assured that anything that would be agreed upon (in connection with its cease-fire agreement with the government) will be followed down to the lowest levels of the MILF," he said.

Lucero said the military was also checking the claim made by Abdulgani during interrogation that a JI leader was now in the country.

"We still have to confirm the truth of his revelation," he said.

AFP vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia yesterday said the military found it interesting that the MILF leadership was unaware some of its members were working with the JI.

Garcia said two of the four rebels arrested on Friday had admitted they were working for the JI but the MILF central committee did not know about this. He did not identify the other rebel aside from Abdulgani.

"What was interesting in the statements of the two MILF rebels was that their central committee had no idea whatsoever of their connections with the JI. They had done it by themselves," Garcia said.

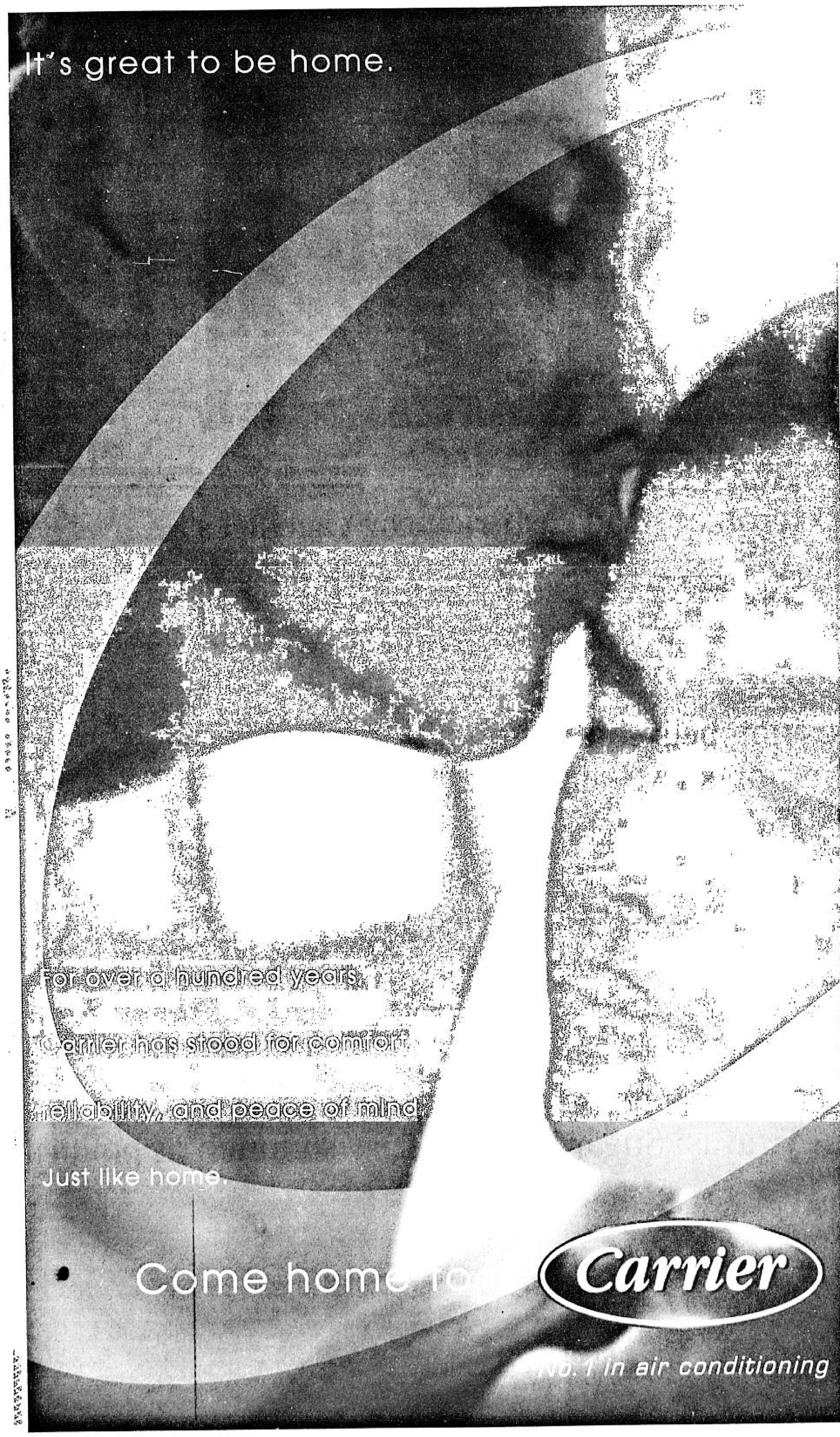
He said the military was still interrogating the suspects.

But Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, said the suspects were tortured into admitting links to the JI.

Jaafar reiterated that the MILF did not have connections to any terrorist organizations and its members remained solid behind the peace process.

He said the MILF-JI connection was being floated by the military in order to derail the peace process.

"The MILF remains committed to a just and lasting solution to the decades-old problem in Mindanao," he said. *With Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*


It's great to be home.
For over a hundred years,
Carrier has stood for comfort,
reliability, and peace of mind.
Just like home.
Come home to
Carrier
No. 1 in air conditioning

Abu suspect in ferry fire cries torture

By Philip C. Tubeza

SUSPECTED Abu Sayyaf Group member Redendo Cain Dellosa has accused the police of torturing him to confess to the bombing of the Superferry 14 near Manila Bay last Feb. 27.

In a three-page counter-affidavit submitted to the Department of Justice, Dellosa said whatever the police got from him about the blast that left more than 100 passengers dead was extracted through "intense" violence.

He cited the Board of Marine Inquiry's finding that the blaze was caused by the combustion of paints stored in the ship, "not (by) any explosive (set off) by any man."

Last month, Dellosa and five others—Alhamzer Manatad Limbong, alias Kosovo; Radzman Sangkula Jul; Abdusaid Sanjeng Lim, alias Abu Hanipa; Walter Villanueva and Marvin Rueca—were arrested for allegedly planning a bombing blitz in Metro Manila.

Dellosa said the police abducted him on the night of March 22 and brought to a safehouse: "I was subjected to intense physical torture ... as a result of which I suffered unbearable pain."

He said the interrogators ordered him to admit he had carried out the bombing. "I denied (this) vehemently but ... they said I signed or thumbmarked a confession ... although up to this date, no one has shown me a copy of (that) confession."

Dellosa noted that he was detained without formal charges regarding the Superferry incident until April 14, when he was told that he, Jul, Rueca, and Lim had been charged with kidnapping 52 students from the Tumahubong Elementary School in Sumisip, Basilan on March 20, 2000.

Denying this as well, Dellosa stressed he worked as a welder at the Liberty Broadcasting Network in Makati from June 1996 up to March 15, 2002. And then he said he quit his job to join a Muslim community in Anda, Pangasinan.

In May 2002, Dellosa was arrested after the police raided the Anda community, claiming it was a terrorist school. But the charges for illegal possession of firearms against him were subsequently dropped.

Rueca said he worked in Pasay City from June 1997 to Jan. 11, 2002. "I vehemently deny the accusations for being ... totally physically impossible," he said.

Lawyer Joven Lorenzo, Rueca's counsel, said the Pasig Regional Trial Court has ordered his client's release but that the police ignored the order.

Jul's mother, Insih Rija Abdulmandangan, claimed he studied at Mindanao State University from 1997 up till this summer and never once returned to Basilan.

Senior State Prosecutor Nestor Lazaro said the Tumahubong case has been set for resolution after the suspects file counter-affidavits on Monday.

GenSan mall blast suspect falls

By Alcuin Papa

THE ALLEGED bomber of a General Santos City mall in which 14 people were killed two years ago has fallen into the hands of government troops in South Cotabato.

Philippine Army reports identified the suspect as Benjie Ambi, alias Adam Puntuan and Commander Cobra.

He is believed to have perpetrated the Fitmart Mall bombing on April 21, 2002, that also wounded 60 others.

Ambi was arrested in his house in Barangay Butril, Palimbang, South Cotabato.

A team composed of the General Santos police force, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and military intelligence operatives received a tip from local residents that Ambi was in the area and arrested him.

The suspect was brought to the General Santos City police headquarters for investigation.

A warrant of arrest against Ambi was issued two years ago by General Santos City Regional Trial Court Judge Marivic Daray for illegal possession of explosives, multiple murder and frustrated murder. *With Mel Lawrence de Guzman*

Lifestyle flunkers in polls still have to face the music

By Armand N. Nocum

THEY may have flunked the lifestyle check, but look where they are now.

Some officials who failed a government audit of their assets and liabilities are out to re-invent themselves by running for elective posts.

But Ombudsman and Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) officials were quick to assure the public that win or lose, these officials would still face graft charges filed against them since Malacañang's Transparency Group began its lifestyle check program last year.

PAGC Commissioner Teresita Baltazar said yesterday that some of them could only be out to seek vindication from voters or to use their powers in fighting the courts. "They are running to hide behind their elective posts. The electorate should be wary about voting them into office," she said.

The fact that they have millions of funds to mount a campaign says a lot about charges that they have enriched themselves in office, Baltazar added.

Among those running for office are former Transportation Assistant Secretary Rene Maglanque, Internal Revenue Collector Lucien E. Sayuno, and Public Works Bureau of Maintenance Director Luisito Visorde.

Charged with graft before the PAGC early this year, Maglanque had resigned to run for Congress in Pampanga under the administration party.

Visorde, a mayoral candidate in Calauag, Quezon, was one of four officials recommended to be investigated for graft by Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez.

Running for mayor in Dasmariñas, Cavite, Sayuno is believed to have amassed tens of millions in ill-gotten wealth, exceeding his P22,521 monthly salary.

Visorde has denied the charge, saying he was already in business before joining the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Lawyer Edna A. Batacan said Maglanque had already served as board member in Pampanga before being appointed to the Transportation department .

Sayuno refused to comment on the issue.

RP on high terror alert

TIGHTER security measures for Philippine embassies and businesses were ordered yesterday by President Macapagal-Arroyo following reported threats against the country's interests abroad.

On Monday, Thai police reported that the offices of Philippine Air Lines, Korean Air and Kuwait Airways in Bangkok, Thailand received letters warning them about the attacks. Investigators said the letters were similar to those sent by the Yellow-Red Overseas Organization to Pakistani and South Korean embassies last week also in Bangkok.

Arroyo said the foreign department was coordinating with host countries on "intensified" security measures to thwart any terrorist attempt.

Department of National Defense Assistant Secretary Ricardo Blancaflor said yesterday they are taking the threat seriously, as it heightened its alert for possible attacks.

"We cannot take these things lightly. We are on heightened alert not only in airports but seaports," he said.

PAL officials have said the company had taken security precautions as authorities said the warning could be related to the support the countries under threat were providing in the United States-led war on terror.

The Philippines has around 40 soldiers and policemen encamped with coalition forces in Iraq. The government has yet to call the contingent back home but has suspended plans to send in reinforcements.

Yesterday, Australia announced a million-dollar plan to boost security at Philippine maritime ports as part of a region-wide counter-terrorism drive. The program is part of a three-year counter-terrorism assistance package for the country announced by Prime Minister John Howard during a visit to Manila last year.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer and Transport Minister John Anderson said the $950,000 initiative would provide training and expertise to help the Philippines implement a national plan for port security. *Alcuin Papa, AFP*

Joker takes up cudgels for Noli

ADMINISTRATION Sen. Joker P. Arroyo yesterday took the cudgels for Sen. Noli de Castro in the latest disqualification suit filed by the Bagong Lahing Pilipino Development Foundation Inc. against the running mate of President Macapagal Arroyo.

Arroyo said the Commission on Elections should look at disqualification cases with a quizzical eye before it is swamped with these useless suits that have made these cases a joke.

Turning the tables on De Castro's accuser, Arroyo claimed that Bagong Lahing is a bogus foundation with a sordid past and with an impostor for its chairman/president based on the records of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"How can the Comelec entertain a complaint from a foundation whose chairman and president claims he is the real Bong Bong Marcos and that he is the key to sharing in the Marcos millions?" Arroyo asked.

Bagong Lahing had accused De Castro of violating Sections 6.5 and 6.6 of Republic Act 9006 when the "Magandang Gabi Bayan," a weekly TV program which the senator hosted, replayed an episode which placed the foundation in a bad light. Bagong Lahing claimed that the law prohibits candidates from unfairly using mass media to promote their candidacies.

Earlier, Bagong Lahing had accused De Castro of alleged extortion in exchange for a favorable feature on the foundation in MGB which is aired every Saturday on ABS-CBN.

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Anti-graft groups to file plunder raps vs Pagcor execs

By Blanche S. Rivera

ANTI-CORRUPTION groups will lodge plunder charges against officials of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. who entered into "onerous deals" that allegedly cost the government at least P442 million in revenues.

PlunderWatch, one of the complainants in the plunder case against detained former President Joseph Estrada, will file the complaint before the Office of the Ombudsman after the May 10 elections.

Convenor Carol Araullo yesterday said in a press briefing at the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines office in Manila that PlunderWatch, Act Now and the Confederation for the Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees needed more time to substantiate certain allegations and investigate whether higher officials had approved or orchestrated the deals with private companies.

Araullo said that "at the very minimum," the Office of the President should be held accountable for gross mismanagement because it allowed the alleged Pagcor abuses to happen "under its nose."

The three groups challenged President Macapagal-Arroyo to prove that she did not approve the alleged Pagcor abuses by ordering the agency's board members to resign minus their new retirement benefits.

Araullo said Ms Macapagal should order the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission to look into the questionable deals and resolutions of the Pagcor board, as she did in the case of the controversial President Diosdado Macapagal Avenue.

"Unless the Pagcor board [members] resign, specifically chair Efraim Genuino, the people will retain the impression that these are untouchables because of Mr. Genuino's links with the First Gentleman [Jose Miguel Arroyo]," she said.

Pangasinan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, who exposed Pagcor's alleged abuses last week, said he would support the anti-corruption crusade but that he was leaving the legal battle to PlunderWatch.

'Excessive'

Araullo said Pagcor's charter did not allow it to grant or lease a franchise to operate casinos and other gambling joints, but that the "lease agreements" with private firms for slot machine arcades were effectively joint ventures.

Under the lease agreement, the private firms will provide the slot machines and other gambling equipment to Pagcor in exchange for a "rental fee" of 40 percent of total revenues from the operation.

"Even by business or corporate standards, that is excessive," Araullo noted.

In a detailed presentation, PlunderWatch showed that P441.18 million in revenues had been diverted to Pagcor's seven private partners in the operation of the slot machine arcades as part of the 60-40 contract.

The government also lost P208.21 million in income because of the percentage share of the partners that were not remitted to the national treasury.

The Philippine Sports Commission was also disadvantaged by P10.41 million, while the government could have earned another P21.06 million if the private firms had been slapped the tax mandatory for legally issued franchises, PlunderWatch said.

'Private enterprise'

"Pagcor should be earning more and giving more money to government but it is not doing that because its officials have made it their private enterprise," Araullo said.

Act Now spokesperson Romulo Abaya said Ms Macapagal should qualify her order for Pagcor to "open [its] books" because there were a lot of expenditures, including the P475 million that went to the Office of the President's Social Fund, that needed to be explained.

"We wish also to avoid baseless accusations that we are exposing Pagcor anomalies for partisan political ends. Whoever wins or loses in the presidential derby, our anti-corruption groups will pursue this case relentlessly," Abaya said.

VAL HANDUMON

LAPU-LAPU (played by Lauro Flores), too, gets to shake the hand of the President during the reenactment of the Kadaugan (battle of Mactan) in Cebu City where the locals were treated to a patriotic drama of how the native hero killed the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan.

Palace cronies head …

From page A1

it," said Dilangalen, who is seeking a Senate seat under Fernando Poe Jr.'s Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino.

Dilangalen said he had received reports that the foundation financed the printing of Ms Macapagal's campaign posters.

"There is conflict of interest here as government officials shouldn't be engaging in partisan political activities," he said.

Malacañang had nothing to say about Dilangalen's remarks.

"We will not comment on that," said Ricardo Saludo, deputy spokesperson for the President.

CARP money

Farmer groups said even part of the P10-billion agrarian reform fund taken out of the recovered ill-gotten Marcos wealth might be in use for Ms Macapagal's personal campaign.

In a news conference at the Sanlakas office, peasant leaders under the Sanlakas-Kanayunan umbrella organization said they had learned that part of the budget intended for the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program was being used for the President's "priority projects" such as medical insurance, scholarship and hybrid rice production for the duration of the campaign season.

They furnished the INQUIRER a copy of a briefing paper presented by acting Agrarian Secretary Jose Mari Ponce to non-government organizations last month.

The paper showed that the agrarian reform expenditure for this year included Ms Macapagal's projects, although it did not indicate how much of the CARP budget would be spent on them.

For this year, the government has set aside for CARP P10 billion of the recovered P38-billion Marcos wealth, which, under the law, is supposed to be used solely for agrarian reform.

"We strongly suspect that the President is using the money meant for agrarian reform for her campaign. She has to answer for that," said Bal Martin, national president of the Aniban ng Manggagawa sa Agrikultura.

"This is the blood money of the Filipino people, and they [Malacañang] have used it for their personal interests," added Natividad Pena-Ocampo, president of the Kalipunan ng mga Samahan sa Kanayunan ng Timog Katagalugan.

Pet projects

According to the briefing paper, the Department of Agrarian Reform will provide counterpart financing for Ms Macapagal's pet projects: PhilHealth (named the Greater Medicare Assistance—or GMA—sa Barangay); student assistance program (President Diosdado Macapagal Scholarship Program); potable water supply (Patubig Natin); farm-to-market roads (Kalsada Natin); and the production of hybrid rice (referred to as GMA rice).

The priority projects are to last from March to June 2004, the paper showed.

The farmer leaders quoted DAR officials as telling them that the department would also finance day care centers.

Sought for comment, Ms Macapagal's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the Marcos money remained untouched.

He said the farmers should be the last to complain about pro-poor projects like Philhealth.

But in a statement, the Sanlakas-Kanayunan farmer leaders challenged the Macapagal administration to go public about its use of the Marcos funds.

"Or else we will be compelled to stand by our view that the administration has abandoned the agrarian reform program and will take the necessary legal actions against the President," they said.

Romeo Rudion, secretary general of the Makabayang Alyansa ng Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, said: "With the money coming from the PCGG (Presidential Commission on Good Government), the government can complete the agrarian reform process very soon.

"Thousands of farmers are being killed and harassed because of this. But given this budget misuse, what will happen now to land acquisition and distribution?"

Public disclosure

Dilangalen said a review of Bigkis Pinoy's funding sources and expenditures might be in order.

This was echoed by Florencio Noel, a nominee of the party-list group An Waray, in a separate interview.

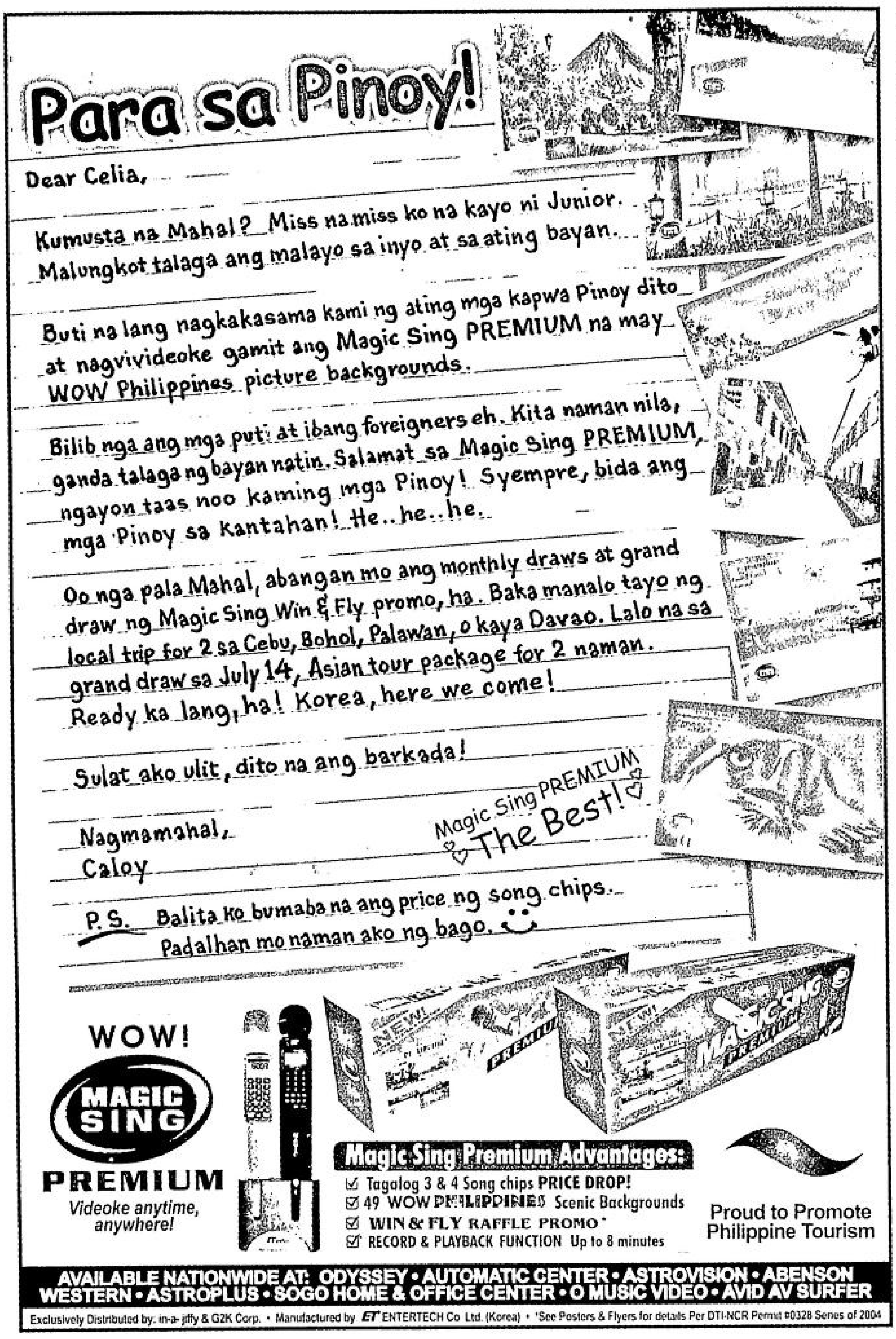
"Bigkis Pinoy is riddled with conflicts of interest," Noel said. "It should pass the test of transparency, and this can only be done through a public disclosure of its financial books.

"We want to find out if government resources are being channeled through Bigkis Pinoy and in turn funneled into the President's campaign."

Bigkis Pinoy was incorporated on July 21, 1999, as a "non-stock and non-profit association."

Its objectives include the promotion of "cooperatives … as a practical vehicle for promoting self-reliance and harnessing people toward the attainment of economic development and social justice."

Its incorporation papers say it can also "borrow, raise or obtain funds to support or carry out its objectives and purposes." *With a report from Gil Cabacungan Jr.*



Para sa Pinoy!

Dear Celia,

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Bilib nga ang mga puti at ibang foreigners eh. Kita naman nila, ganda talaga ng bayan natin. Salamat sa Magic Sing PREMIUM, ngayon taas noo kaming mga Pinoy! Syempre, bida ang mga Pinoy sa Kantahan! He..he..he.

Oo nga pala Mahal, abangan mo ang monthly draws at grand draw ng Magic Sing Win & Fly promo, ha. Baka manalo tayo ng local trip for 2 sa Cebu, Bohol, Palawan, o kaya Davao. Lalo na sa grand draw sa July 14, Asian tour package for 2 naman.
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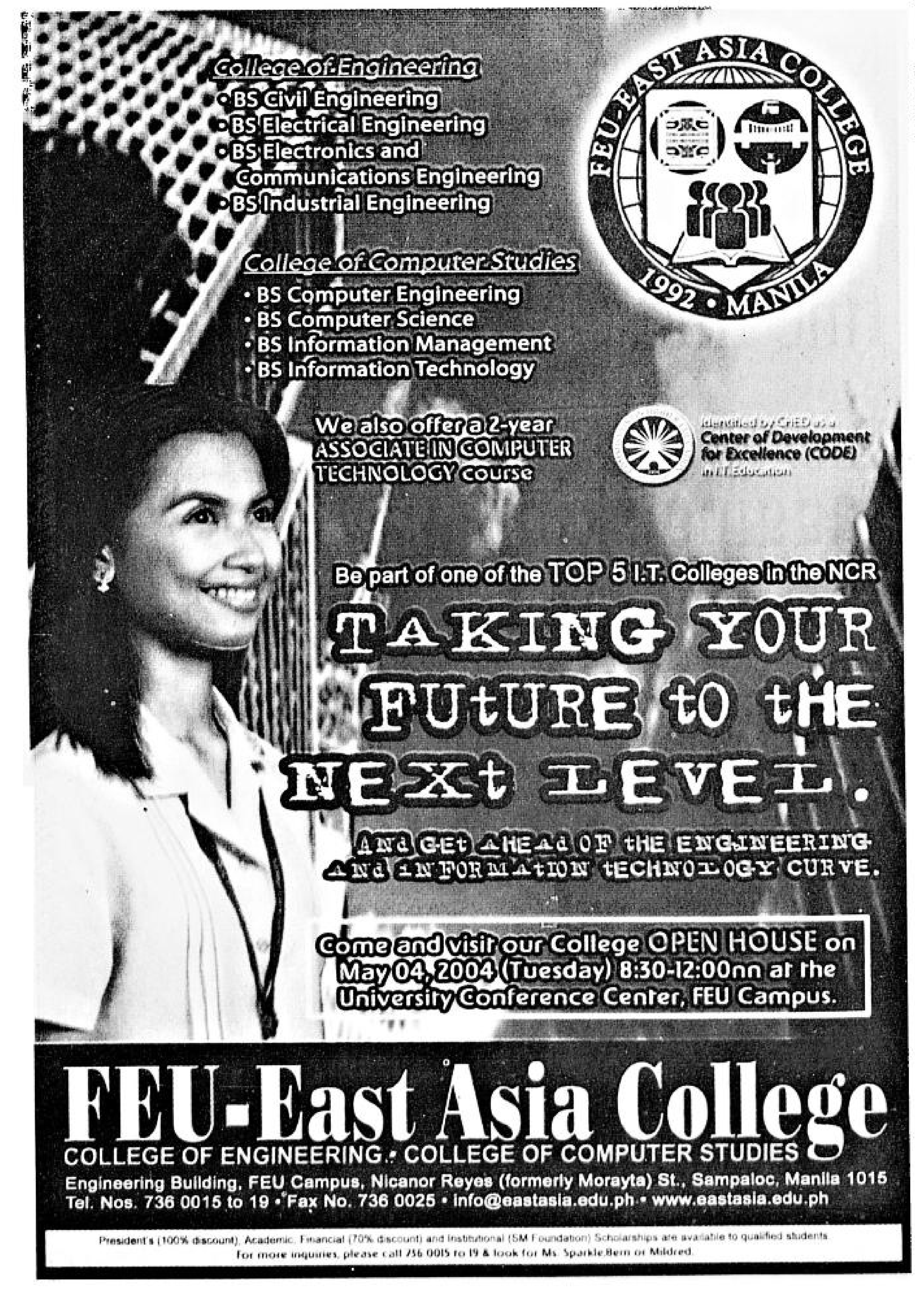

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GMA look-alike tilt not meant to taunt foes, organizers say

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President GLORIA

GLORIA LOOK-ALIKES pose with the poster of the real McCoy; 13-year-old Bryl Claridad (center) won the contest.
JOAN BONDOC

LOOK-ALIKES of President Macapagal-Arroyo invaded the urban poor community of Payatas, a known bailiwick of opposition candidate Panfilo Lacson, on Monday but organizers of the event said the occasion was not meant to taunt supporters of the President's rivals.

Robert Bastillo, national spokesperson of Biyaheng Gloria, the 45 day caravan of support for President Macapagal-Arroyo and organizer of the Gloria look-alike search, said the contests for Metro Manila are particularly targeting areas considered as bailiwicks of opposition presidential candidates.

On Friday, the Gloria look-alike contest took place in Blumentritt, Manila, a bailiwick of another opposition presidential hopeful Fernando Poe Jr.

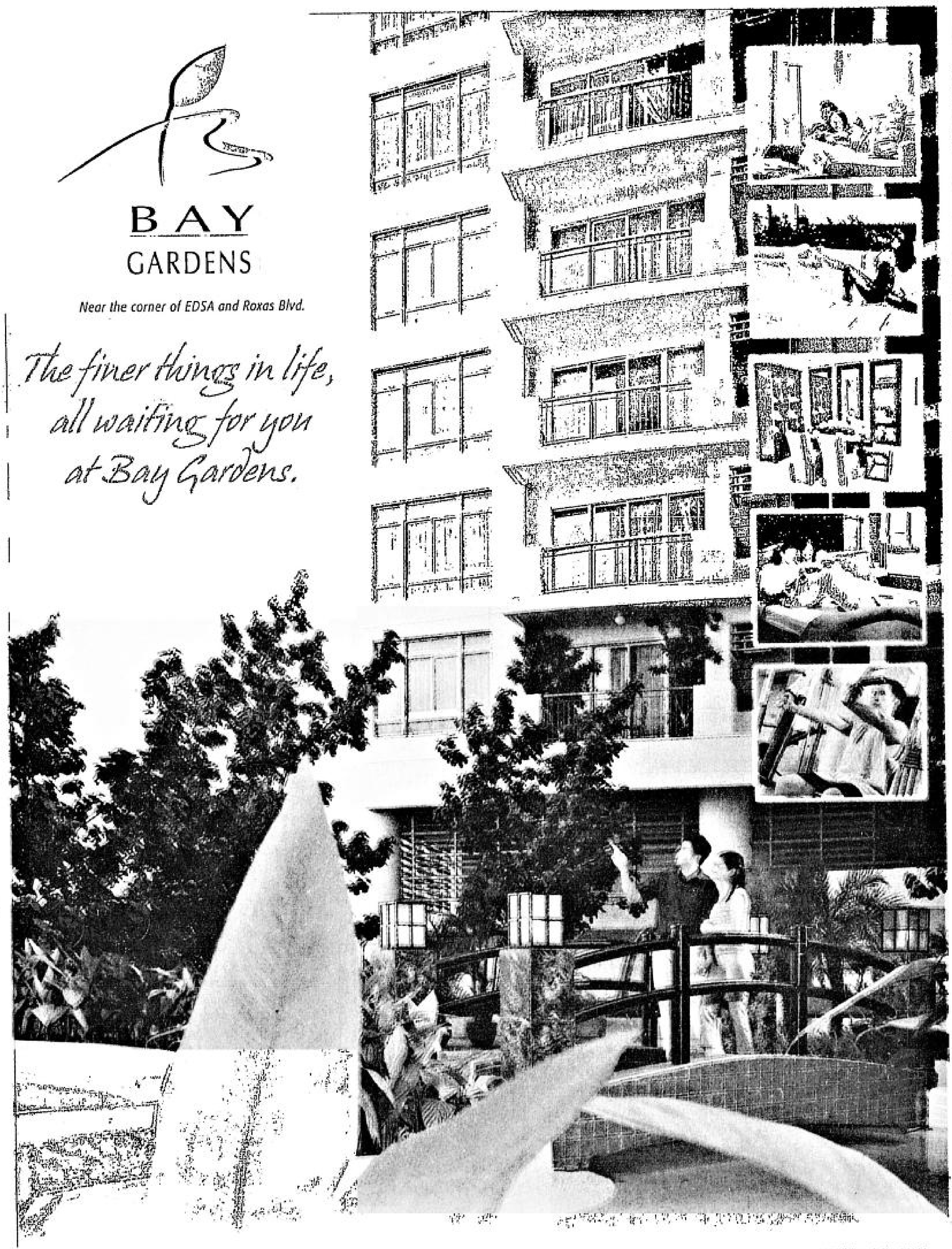
Blumentritt has always been regarded as Poe's territory, having been the favorite shooting site of the movie action star for more than 20 years. It was in Blumentritt where FPJ movies like "Dito sa Pitong Gatang," "Ang Leon at ang Tigre," "Isusumbong Kita sa Tatay Ko," "Ang Siyota Kong Balikbayan," "Walang Matigas na Tinapay sa Mainit na Kape," "Kahit Konting Pagtingin" and "Pakners" were shot.

Payatas B, on the other hand, is known to be supportive of Lacson. It was in Lupang Pangako Payatas B where Lacson had his *miting de avance* for Payatas.

In holding the contests in known opposition bailiwicks, Bastillo said: "We want the public and all those aspiring for political office to know that the supporters of even the keenest rivals in the coming presidential derby can be staged at a close range without a riot or a ruckus ensuing," he said.

He added that both the administration and the opposition should make the effort to keep the election atmosphere sober and geared towards unity and reconciliation, with less than three weeks to election day.

Last night, the venue for the Gloria look-alike contest was San Joaquin St. corner Boni Ave. in Mandaluyong City. It will be at the Bonifacio Monument Circle tomorrow and the grand finals is scheduled for May 6.



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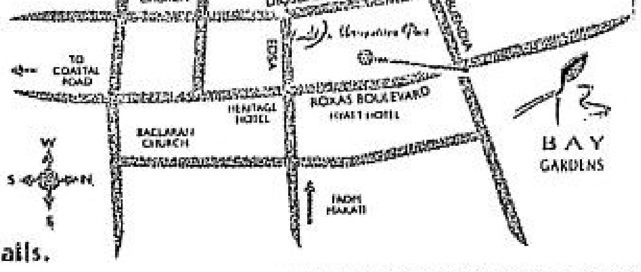

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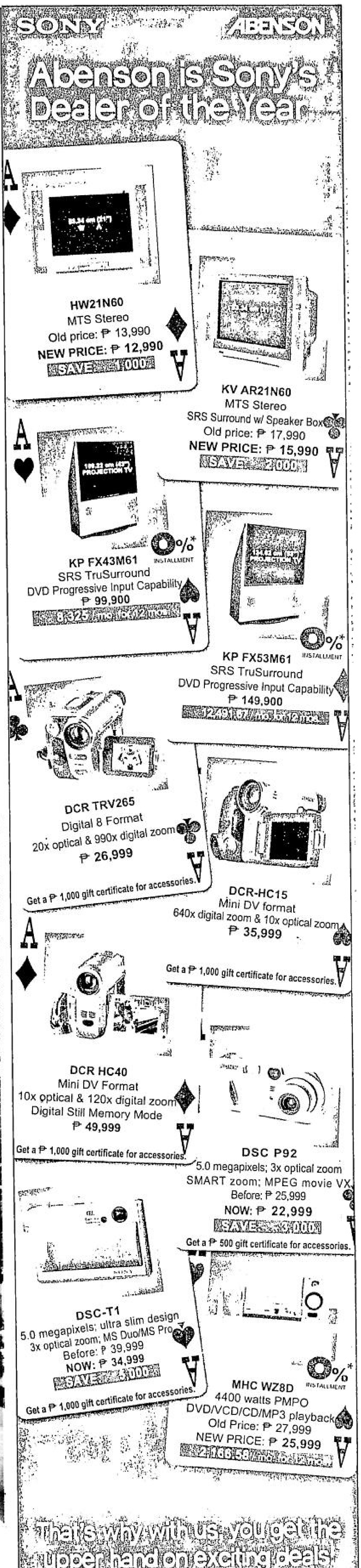

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PROMO PERIOD: April 23 - 30, 2004 Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 1820 Series of 2004

Comelec rejects bid to disqualify Bro. Eddie

By Martin P. Marfil

ONE THORN out of the way for presidential candidate Eddie Villanueva.

Yesterday, the Commission on Elections junked a motion for reconsideration to disqualify the popular evangelist from the presidential race. The commission en banc said the motion filed by lawyer Samson Alcantara of the Advocates and Adherents of Social Justice for School Teachers and Allied Workers (AASJS) was a "repetition of the points or arguments duly considered by this commission."

In his original petition, Alcantara said Villanueva should be disqualified because of the constitutional provision on the separation of Church and state. The Comelec's second division threw out the petition for lack of merit on Jan. 27, but the AASJS appealed the decision.

The dismissal of Villanueva's motion came the same day the Comelec heard the arguments of lawyer Ely Pamatong who was disqualified earlier by the commission from running for the presidency.

Pamatong had appealed the Comelec decision before the Supreme Court which ordered the case remanded to the Comelec.

During the hearing yesterday, Pamatong tried to disprove that he was a "nuisance" candidate, submitting as evidence several books, photos, newspaper clippings, an organizational chart of a group that he leads, and the testimonies of two witnesses who vouched for his character and his capacity to wage a national campaign.

He added he had led a fight to "regain" American citizenship for Filipinos born before 1946, that this move lost by a mere vote in a US court and that he has a group called International Militia of People against Communism and Terrorism (Impact).

Impact, according to witness Jojo Guerrero, is composed of several "battalions" of about 150,000 officers and men throughout the country.

Guerrero claimed the group coordinates its work with the Armed Forces of the Philippines and was once utilized to show public support for the AFP when it was being under fire for alleged human rights abuses.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, April 28, 2004
3rd Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 8:1-8
Gospel: Jn 6:35-40

Jesus said to the disciples, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall never be hungry, and whoever believes in me shall never be thirsty. Nevertheless, as I said, you refuse to believe, even when you have seen. Yet, all that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me, I shall not turn away. For I have come from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of the One who sent me.

"And the will of him who sent me is that I lose nothing of what he has given me, but instead that I raise it up on the last day. This is the will of the Father, that whoever sees the Son and believes in him shall live with eternal life; and I will raise him up on the last day."

Commentary

In a bookshop recently I saw the old penny catechism, which I hadn't seen in many years. The last time I saw it, it was being beaten into me with a stick! Someone with an excess of nostalgia had it republished. It was strange to turn those pages again. The words were familiar, and somehow terrible—less for what they said than for what they didn't say. In the first section, which dealt with God, God was described as Creator and Lord of all things, who rewards the good and punishes the wicked. He was well positioned to do this, since he "sees our most secret thoughts and actions." There was no suggestion that God was love. I was suddenly aware of how damaged I had been by that catechism. There was no knowledge of God in it. "Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love" (1Jn 4:8). Mischief isn't only in what you say, it is also in what you fail to say. To fail to say, in a section specifically on God, that God is love, is to show oneself to have been untouched by the Gospel. "Whoever comes to me shall never be hungry," said Jesus. That catechism left me starving, and it is not in the least surprising that many starved to death spiritually. Today's gospel reading merits long meditation.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Party may not change theory of law on appeal—As a rule, a party who deliberately adopts a certain theory upon which the case is tried and decided by the lower court will not be permitted to change theory on appeal. Points of law, theories, issues and arguments not brought to the attention of the lower court need not be, and ordinarily will not be, considered by a reviewing court, as these cannot be raised for the first time at such late stage. Basic considerations of due process underlie this rule. It would be unfair to the adverse party who would have no opportunity to present further evidence material to the new theory, which it could have done had it been aware of it at the time of the hearing before the trial court. To permit petitioner in this case to change its theory on appeal would thus be unfair to respondent, and offend the basic rules of fair play, justice and due process. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, Special First Division, Bank of the Philippine Islands vs Leobrera, G. R. No. 137147, Nov. 18, 2003]

BY R. B. VERA

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US fined for oil spill

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The United States has paid a $5,000 fine after one of its warships accidentally spilled oil in Subic Bay, a former American naval base that's now a busy industrial and recreation center, officials said yesterday.

Subic Bay Freeport Zone officials ordered officers of the USS Coronado, the temporary flagship of the US Navy's 7th Fleet, to pay the fine after the battle ship spilled about 1,000 liters of oil, creating a slick at a pier, according to official reports about the incident.

A US military spokesman in Manila, Capt. Dennis Williams, said the spill was accidental and US authorities paid the fine. The exact volume of the spilled oil has not been officially determined, but Williams said it was at least 38 liters (10 gallons).

The Coronado, which carries the 7th Fleet commander Vice Adm. Robert Willard, docked in Subic from Friday to Monday in a regular port call, officials said.

The ship's chief engineer, Andrew Busk, said in a preliminary report that crewmen on Sunday were transferring fuel to a tank, which overfilled and spilled to the sea through a vent.

Within minutes, the pumping was stopped and the crew began to contain the slick using fire hoses and absorbent pads, Busk said.

The United States withdrew from Subic in 1992, a year after the Philippine Senate decided against continued US operations there and at nearby Clark Air Force Base.

The military allies signed an accord in 1998 that allowed the resumption of port visits and large-scale joint military exercises. AP

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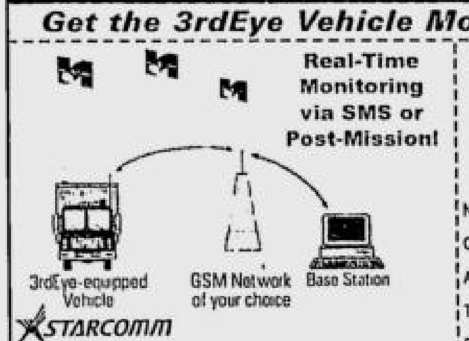

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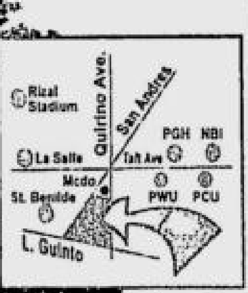

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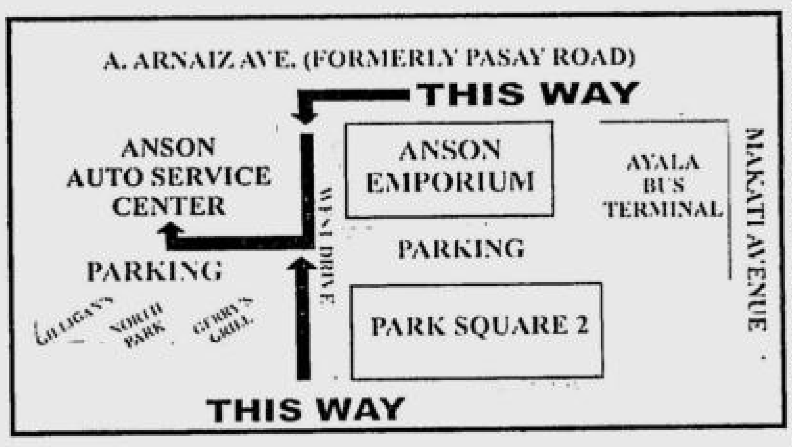

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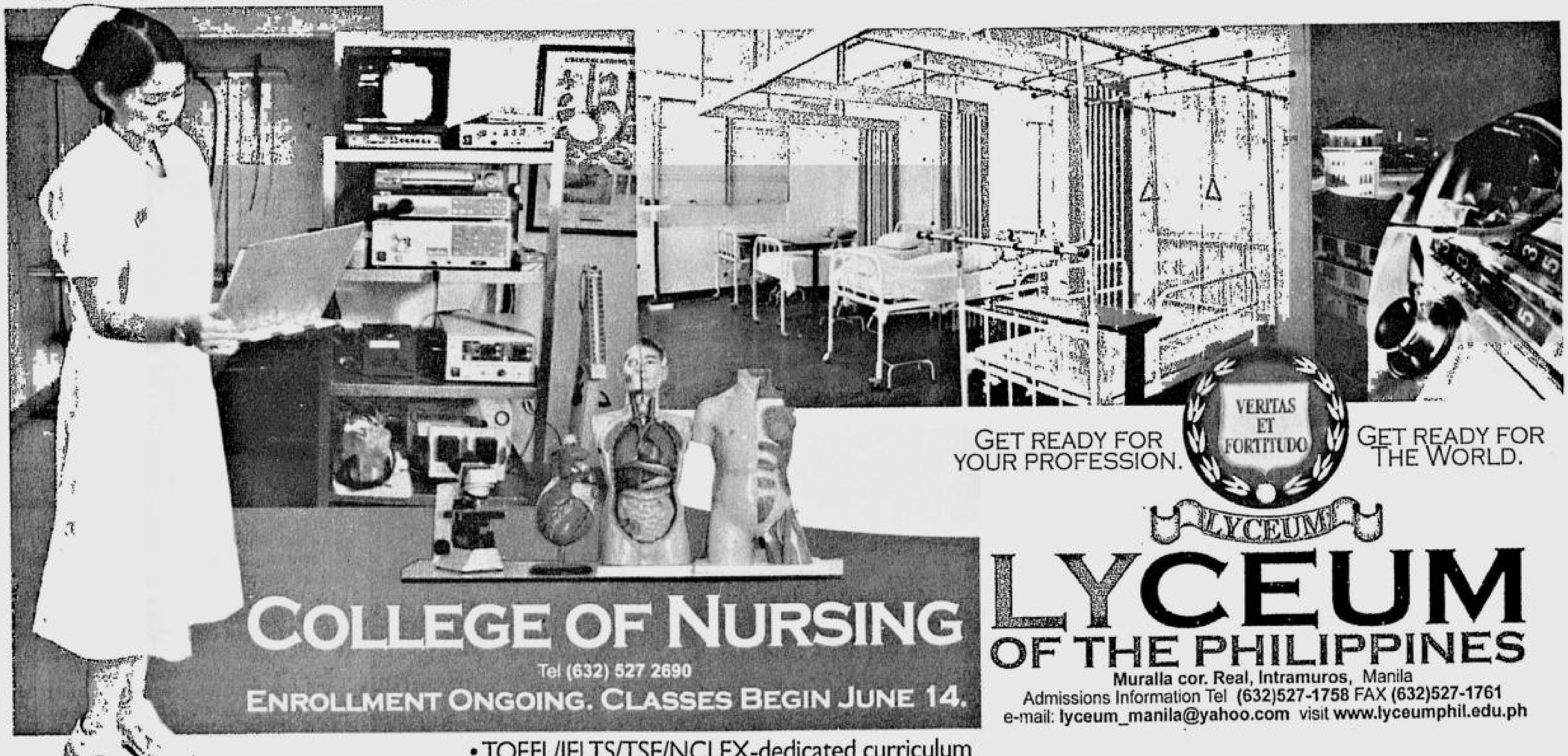

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Opposition continues ...

From page A1

lished because these could somehow condition the minds of the people to vote for those who lead the surveys.

"Surveys erroneously shape wrong perceptions and opinions," he said.

Cheap form of political ad

Lacson, now a presidential candidate, said the pre-election surveys done by Pulse Asia and SWS were being used to project President Macapagal-Arroyo as a strong contender.

This, he said, could cover up any poll fraud committed by the administration.

"It's scary. Cheating is the only logical reason why Malacañang is trying to project her as having a high rating. When they cheat, the results are credible. So we're preparing for that," Lacson said.

The senator, who consistently lagged behind in fourth place until Alyansa ng Pag-asa standard-bearer Raul Roco left for the United States for medical reasons, said the surveys had become a cheap form of political advertising.

"Instead of spending say P100 million on ad spots for TV and radio, you just pay survey firms to project yourself as a contender," he said.

The camp of Lacson said SWS and Pulse Asia were charging at least P3 million to P4 million for a survey designed for a particular presidential candidate.

Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla, Lacson's lone senatorial candidate, dared Pulse Asia and SWS to disclose the names of their top clients in the presidential surveys and the government agencies that regularly "subscribe" to their quarterly polls.

"The SWS and Pulse Asia should make public the personalities who are financing the presidential surveys as well as the survey design to determine where the manipulation happens," Padilla said.

One way of manipulating the survey results was asking respondents a question that favored Ms Macapagal, according to Lacson.

Leading questions

He said two SWS field workers had posed the question "Who's the more intelligent candidate—President Macapagal-Arroyo or Fernando Poe Jr.?" to a survey respondent about his choice for president.

Lacson said the respondent, whom he declined to identify, volunteered the information on Monday night, hours after the owner of a water refilling station in Cebu City and a couple from San Juan, Metro Manila, narrated their experiences with alleged survey manipulation at a news conference at the senator's campaign headquarters.

"The respondent said the question was, 'Who is more intelligent, GMA or FPJ?' It's a dead giveaway in favor of GMA. The question was so obvious," Lacson said over Radio Mindanao Network.

Lacson's camp has raised the possibility of joining forces with the Bangon Pilipinas party of presidential candidate Eddie Villanueva, which also came upon survey respondents who believed they had been witness to survey manipulation.

Padilla said the Lacson camp remained in touch with Bangon Pilipinas, which is preparing its own witnesses to corroborate claims that results of the surveys conducted by Pulse Asia and the SWS were rigged.

"I have talked to Bangon vice president Bishop Jovy Galaraga. He is getting the affidavits of the witnesses now. (What we presented Monday) is an eye-opener. It appears the manipulation is being done not only in San Juan and Cebu, but also in Cavite, Davao, and Quezon City," Padilla said.

Padilla hinted that the Lacson camp and Bangon Pilipinas will likely file charges against the two polling firms after they gathered enough evidence to prove the allegations of manipulation.

Panic

The opposition's rejection of survey results by pollsters showing Ms Macapagal leading in the presidential race was an indication of its "fear and panic" over her imminent victory in the May polls, according to pro-administration congressmen.

Representatives Oscar Rodriguez (Pampanga) and Antonio Cuenco (Cebu City) said the results of the surveys conducted by SWS and Pulse Asia had "overwhelmed" the opposition.

Rodriguez noted that the opposition considered the surveys credible only when its candidates were leading but discredited them when the results showed them trailing.

"It's a case of sour graping. They are blinded by too much confidence that they will win in the May polls when the painful truth is they stand no chance against the President," he said.

Rodriguez said the surveys were credible enough because these were commissioned by media firms like Manila Standard and ABS-CBN. The newspaper and the TV network commissioned the SWS survey on April 10-17. Manila Standard commissioned the NFO Trends survey which showed the President leading by 10 percentage points.

No grace under pressure

"These media firms will not stake their names and reputation by allowing the manipulation of survey results," Rodriguez said.

Cuenco, the Lakas-CMD district chair for Cebu City, said the opposition lacked grace under pressure. "Instead of assessing what went wrong in their campaign, they are now blaming the pollsters for their dismal scores," he said.

Torrid ...

From page A1

37 degrees Celsius at around 2 p.m. at the Quezon City Science Garden, one of the three monitoring stations in the capital.

The skies over Luzon were almost cloudless the whole day yesterday because of the high-pressure area in the region, according to forecaster Ricky Fabregas of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

"There was nothing to block the solar radiation," he said, explaining the rise in temperature.

But expect frosty demeanors, to speak nothing of *halo-halo,* to melt even faster.

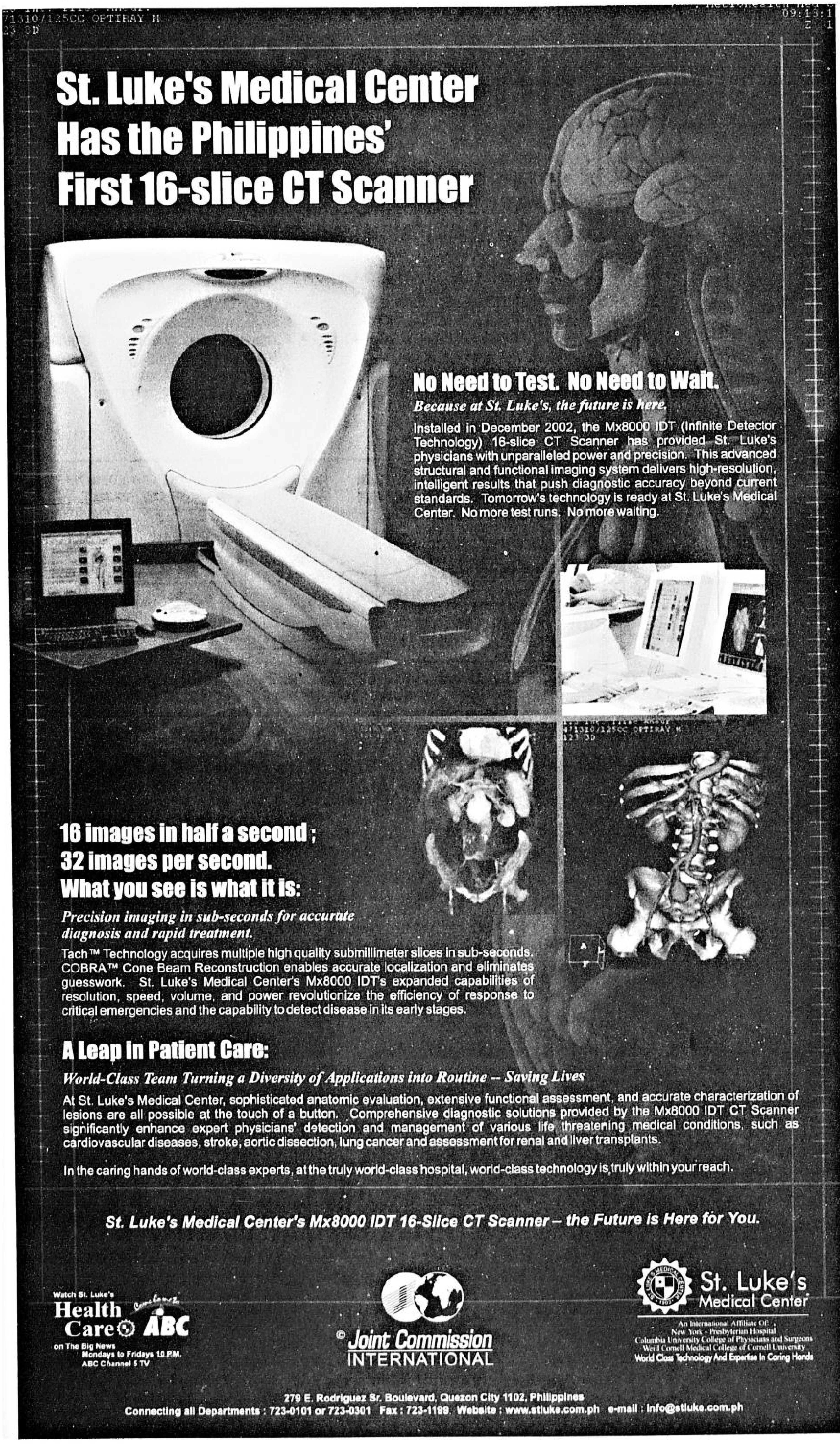
"We're still in the middle of summer, so we can still expect hotter days," said Rosanna Pablo, a weather observer at Pagasa.

And even if the poet says April is the cruelest month, Pagasa's record books indicate that, for Filipinos, the month of May holds that distinction.

The metro-wide record for the hottest day has been unbroken since May 17, 1915, when the Port Area monitoring station recorded 38.6 degrees Celsius.

The national record was set on May 11, 1969, when the mercury rose to a searing 42.2 degrees Celsius in Tuguegarao.

In 2003, the peak temperature of 37 degrees Celsius was recorded on May 15. The year before that, the hottest recorded was 37.5 degrees on May 13.



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New SARS cases no cause for panic—DOH

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE DEPARTMENT of Health assured the public yesterday the new SARS cases in China would not reach the Philippines.

This after the World Health Organization said the two new cases of the deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in Beijing "needed more attention" than the cases in last year's outbreak.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said that with the advanced detection facilities in the country's ports of entry, it would be impossible for SARS-afflicted travelers to enter the Philippines undetected.

"We have enough scanners, so I believe it would be impossible to miss a single potential SARS carrier," said Dayrit in a statement yesterday.

The country has nine thermal scanners in airports where most flights from China land. The Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1 has three scanners while Terminal 2 has four. The Cebu and Laoag International Airports have one scanner each, Dayrit said.

He said all passengers from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan also undergo exit screenings at their points of origin.

"We can never be so sure, so if found with fever, passengers will be further evaluated," the health chief said.

Dayrit also said the SARS isolation facilities in the country were equipped and ready to treat SARS patients. These are at the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine in Muntinlupa, the San Lazaro Hospital in Manila, the Lung Center of the Philippines in Quezon City, and various provincial hospitals and medical centers.

The DOH, however, said it was still safe to travel to China since no community spread of the disease had been reported. Dayrit said the Philippine government was in constant touch with the WHO.

WHO country representative to the Philippines Jean Marc Olive also said Filipinos had no reason to panic since all contacts of the reported cases in China had been identified and were being closely monitored.

But Shigeru Omi, WHO Western Pacific regional director, said it would not be easy to trace all the possible contacts after the index patient, a 26-year-old graduate student who worked in a Beijing laboratory that handled the virus, took a long train ride after contracting the disease. *With Cyril Bonabente*

CORTEZ

PEÑA

Surgery convention

"CURRENT Trends in Non-Trauma Surgical Emergencies" is the theme of the 30th Midyear Convention of the Philippine College of Surgeons set April 30 and May 1 at the Waterfront Insular Hotel in Davao City.

The PCS Davao-Southern Mindanao Chapter will play host to over a thousand practitioners and educators who will attend the convention. More than 60 experts in various surgical specializations, among the movers and shakers of the medical community, will be the resource persons.

According to Dr. Edgardo Cortez, PCS president, up to eight sessions will be running simultaneously to allow participants to select discussions of particular interest to them.

Now on its 30th year, the midyear gathering is the second best-attended surgical conference nationwide. The event is made interesting by a mix of lectures and panel discussions that feature top authorities in various fields. There will also be a pharmaceutical exhibit.

This year's organizing committee is chaired by Dr. Arturo dela Peña, PCS vice president.

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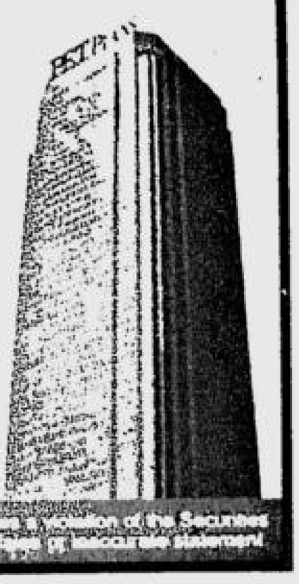

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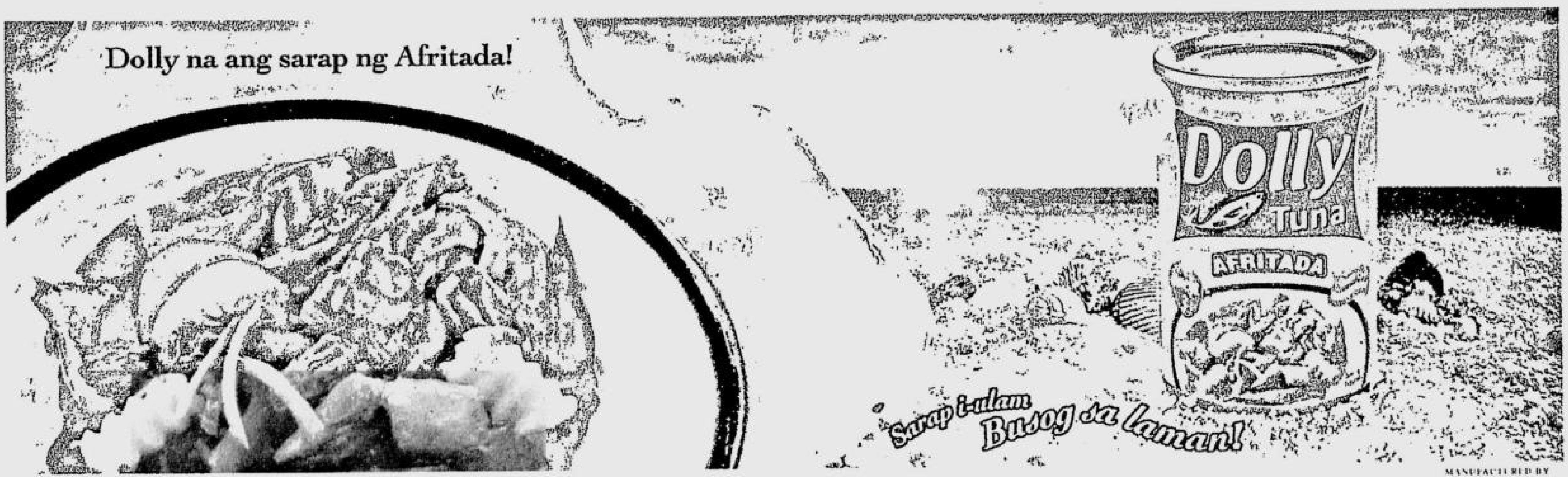

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"May Gloria" Arroyo Diverting our Welfare Fund to Boost Her Presidential Bid -- OFWs

Cause

- Gloria Arroyo and Philhealth president Francisco Duque masterminded the transfer of **P4 BILLION from the OWWA to Philhealth** on Feb. 14, 2003 through Executive Order 182 to **boost the election bid of Gloria Arroyo, to the prejudice of OFWs**
- Duque wrote Gloria Arroyo on Nov. 20, 2003 requesting the **transfer of the money to Philhealth** and told her that the **"transfer will have a significant bearing on 2004 national elections"**
- **A Smoking Gun!** The transfer was motivated by the sheer need for Gloria Arroyo to **promote her presidential bid and nothing more.**
- the OWWA funds come from the **BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS of millions OFWs**
- "This anomalous move proves that **OWWA, Philhealth and Gloria Arroyo have CONSPIRED** to fiddle with OFW money on the sly, and they should be held liable for this **contemptible abuse of our mutual funds in a vain desire to prolong Gloria Arroyo's stay in Malacañang for another six years"**
- **Launched on March 4, 2004 to boost her campaign,** Gloria Arroyo moved **P50 million** from the OWWA fund to her OFW Groceria project where 1,000 OFW Grocerias or mini-groceries will be setup nationwide
- **P15 million** from the 1990 Gulf War Claimant's Fund was taken to finance the various projects of DOLE, ROBBING legitimate Gulf War claimants who have been waiting for years to receive their compensation from the DFA
- Gloria Arroyo handwrites, **"OK, charge it to OWWA"** on a March 12, 2003 request by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo for another **$293,000 or P16.5 Million** to **"cover" preparations for the 2003 Gulf War, an anomalous transaction which until today, has yet to be accounted for**
- Gloria Arroyo is **squandering the money of our migrant workers for her presidential bid instead of improving their welfare**

Effect

- the OWWA Board of Trustees **suspended medical reimbursements** of overseas workers as well as **denied them and their families services** under the OWWA fund
- OWWA Board warned that **employees who proceed to give out such reimbursement will face diciplinary action**
- while the OWWA trustees have been scrimping on our money and denying us basic services consistent with our ownership of the mutual funds, they have been **giving hundreds of millions to Gloria Arroyo**
- **the scholarship program for OFW children have been suspended** as OWWA employees confirmed that they have stopped releasing checks for the schools where beneficiaries are enrolled
- **the General Financial Assistance Program,** which covers burial assistance, expanded disablity assistance, financial assistance and general assistance, among others for countless of OFWs, as well as the repatriation program for distressed OFWs have likewise been **suspended while Gloria Arroyo squanders our money in her campaign.**

Appeal to the Filipino People

- Despite our sacrifices and contributions to the Philippine economy, Gloria Arroyo turns her back on our welfare and worse, she diverts our funds into projects designed to extend her term in Malacañang
- **Enough is enough!** Along with selling us as cheap labor and using us as milking cows, Gloria's use of our funds for her campaign while her government denies OFWs services and assistance is the **Height of cruelty**. It is the **Height of injustice**
- **Let us unite against Gloria Arroyo whose record is riddled with anomalies at the people's expenses.**

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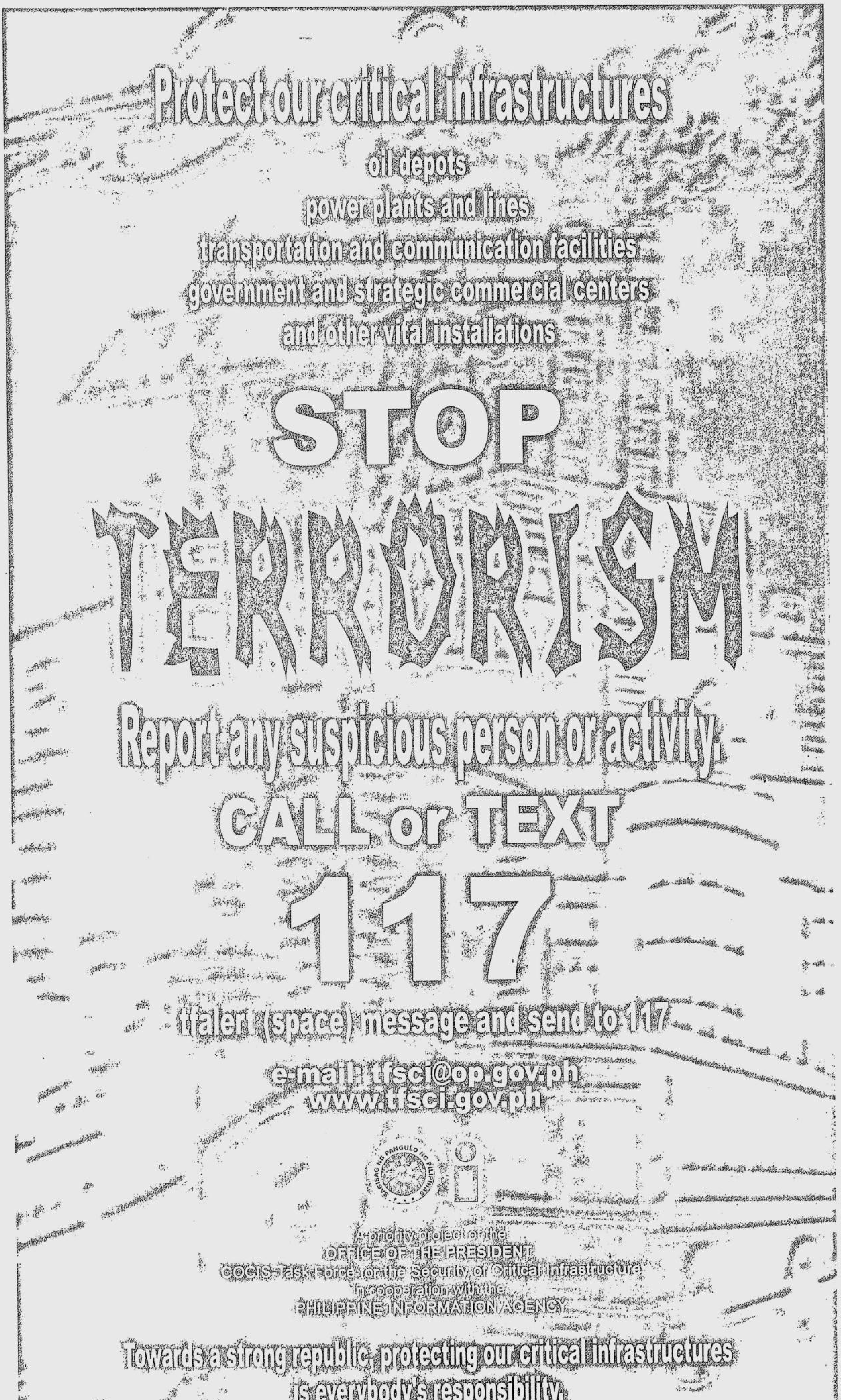

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Fresh religious clashes erupt in Indonesia

AMBON, Indonesia—Snipers killed two paramilitary police officers and a Muslim civilian died in a bomb blast during a third straight day of Muslim-Christian fighting in Indonesia's eastern Maluku islands, police and witnesses said Tuesday.

Police said at least 24 people have died since Sunday.

Dozens of Muslims—brandishing long swords and sticks—crowded the main al-Fatah mosque in the provincial capital, Ambon. They yelled "*jihad*," or holy war, and "God is great" as the bodies of the latest victims were brought in.

Security forces patrolled nearby streets in armored vehicles as vigilante groups on both sides of the religious divide nervously guarded their neighborhoods.

The bloodshed is the worst violence in two years in the region, once known as the Moluccas or Spice Islands.

A 2002 peace deal that ended religious fighting after 9,000 people died now seems in tatters.

Unlike on Sunday and Monday, Tuesday saw no mob clashes or street battles in Ambon.

Instead, unidentified gunmen fired potshots along the main avenues dividing the two communities in the city.

A Muslim civilian died when a homemade bomb went off in the same part of town where snipers earlier killed the two paramilitary police officers and wounded a third.

Most shops and all government offices were closed. Makeshift barricades were erected in many neighborhoods.

"We are defending our area. If we are attacked we will respond in kind," said Kurnia, a Muslim, as he stood guard.

Religious strife in the Malukus first erupted in 1950, when Christians—many with ties to the former Dutch colonial administration—proclaimed a Republic of the South Maluku, independent of Indonesia.

The uprising was eventually crushed by Indonesian forces.

But tensions simmered and inter-communal fighting broke out in January 1999.

Muslim militants from all over Indonesia and Southeast Asia soon joined the fight against Christians.

Intelligence officers say some later joined the al-Qaida-linked terror group Jemaah Islamiyah, which was blamed for the 2002 Bali bombings.

Late Monday, armed men hacked to death a Christian man and injured 28 others just outside Ambon's main port.

The man's body was left lying on the ground until volunteers took it to a Christian hospital, said Dr. Dony Larung. The injured were taken to a makeshift emergency medical clinic in a church.

Ita Tanila and her 4-year-old son suffered head and leg wounds when the police truck they were riding in was ambushed in a Muslim area.

"The police were outnumbered. I hugged my son to try to protect him," Tanila said while lying on a bed with an intravenous drip attached to her wrist.

Analysts say the violence is unlikely to end ahead of presidential elections in July.

The US state department warned Americans to leave Ambon and defer travel to the region. *AP*

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US forces kill 43 rebels near Najaf

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"Forty-three anti-coalition forces were killed and an anti-coalition anti-aircraft system was destroyed" by an AC-130 gunship, the spokesperson said of the clashes at about 9:45 p.m. on Monday.

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Heavy gunfire and the sound of mortar explosions were heard overnight at Kufa, a town next to Najaf. A member of Sadr's so-called Mehdi Army said the militia had clashed with US troops at the northern entrance to the town.

Sadr's militia has been holed up in Najaf for more than two weeks with US forces massed outside in a standoff described as "explosive" by coalition spokesperson Dan Senor on Monday. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Madrid blast suspect nabbed

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

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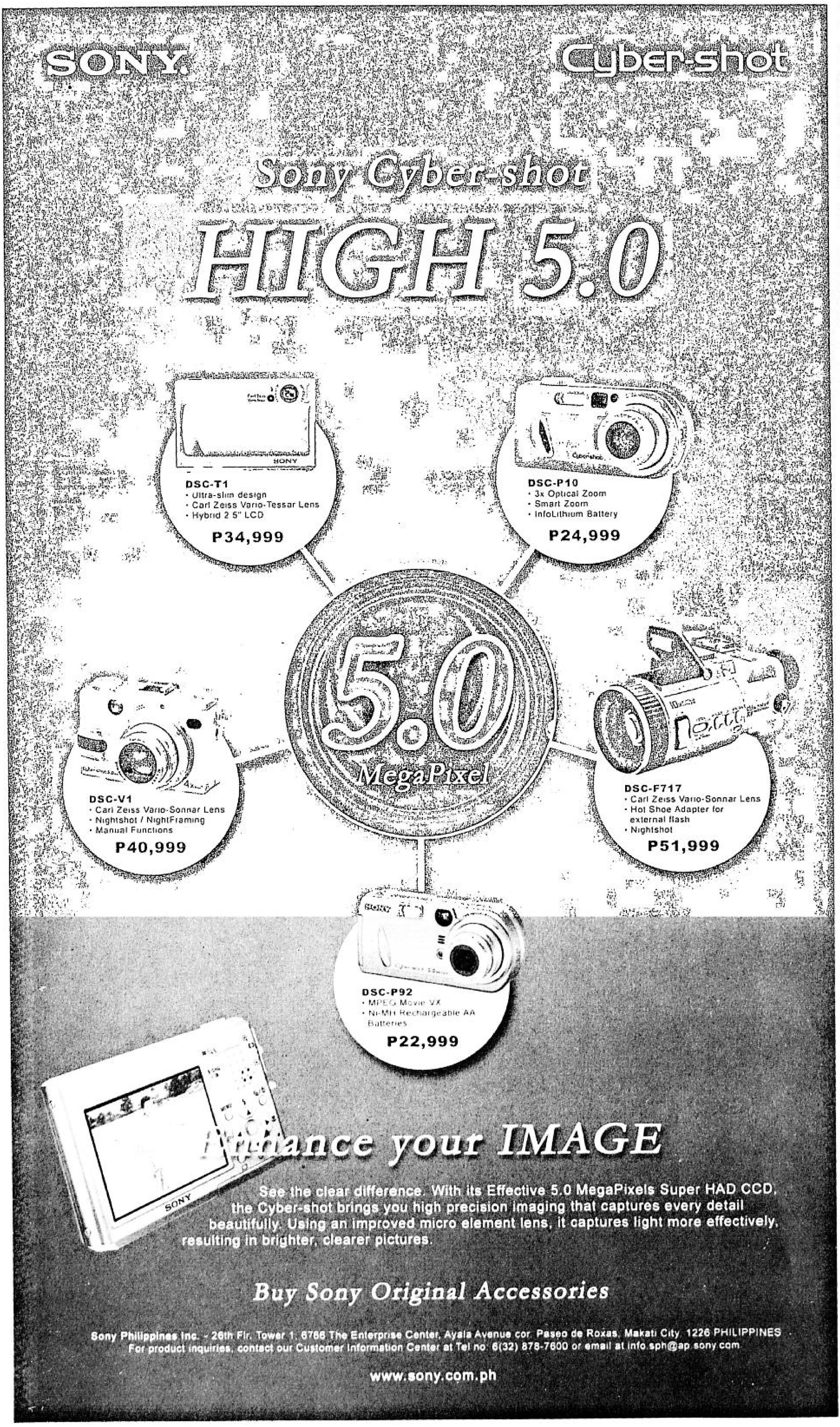

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Al-Qaida chemical bomb plots bared

AMMAN—Al-Qaida plotted bomb and poison gas attacks against the US Embassy and other targets in Jordan, suspects confessed in a videotape broadcast on Jordanian state television. A commentator said the plotters hoped to kill 80,000 people.

One of the alleged conspirators, Azmi al-Jayousi, said he was acting on the orders of Abu-Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian wanted by the United States for allegedly organizing terrorists to fight US troops in Iraq on behalf of al-Qaida. US officials have offered a $10 million reward for his capture.

Al-Jayousi, identified as the head of a Jordanian terror cell, said he met al-Zarqawi in neighboring Iraq to plan the attacks.

The 20-minute taped program, aired Monday, contained what were described as confessions by the suspects, who were arrested a month ago. Officials said four terror suspects believed linked to the conspiracy died in a shootout with police in Amman last week.

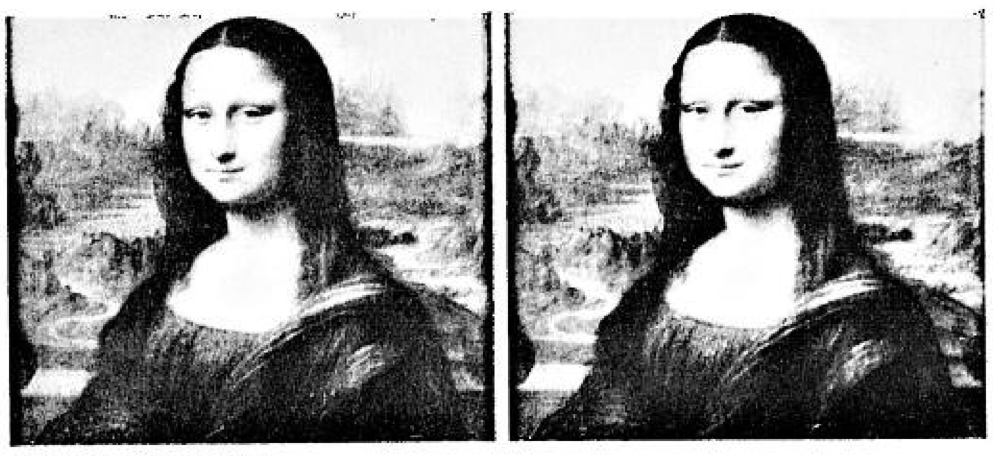
A commentator on the tape, who wasn't further identified, said the plotters targeted Jordan's secret service, its prime minister's office and the US Embassy.

"At least 80,000 people would have been killed," the commentator said. Al-Zarqawi "is the terrorist" who plotted this operation."

Another Jordanian suspect, car mechanic Hussein Sharif Hussein, was shown saying al-Jayousi asked him to buy vehicles and modify them so that they could crash through gates and walls.

The bearded Hussein, looking anxious, said al-Jayousi told him the aim was "carrying out the first suicide attack to be launched by al-Qaida using chemicals... striking at Jordan, its Hashemite (royal family) and launching war on the Crusaders and nonbelievers."

A Web site known for publicizing messages from Muslim extremists on Monday carried a purported claim of responsibility from al-Zarqawi for suicide boat attacks against Gulf oil terminals Saturday that killed three Americans and disabled Iraq's biggest terminal for more than 24 hours. *AP*



FADING BEAUTY
Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" is shown above before (left) and after (right) restoration. Curators at Louvre say Da Vinci's 500-year-old masterpiece was showing worrying signs of warping and an in-depth technical study was now needed. AFP

UN agency seeks food aid for victims of train blast

BEIJING—The World Food Program (WFP) appealed urgently on Tuesday for 1,000 tons of food to feed survivors of a deadly train explosion in North Korea and supply a work-for-food program to rebuild the devastated area.

The UN food agency has had to dip into supplies intended for others in the impoverished state to help feed some of the victims of Thursday's blast that killed at least 161 people, injured 1,300 and destroyed 1,850 homes, WFP officials said.

"We intend to launch a flash appeal today for emergency food aid for North Korea, for the victims of the blast. We will ask for a total of about 1,000 tons," Tony Banbury, WFP's regional director for Asia, told a news conference in Beijing.

On Sunday, Banbury and other UN officials visited the blast site in Ryongchon and hospitals in the nearby city of Sinuiju, across the Yalu River from China, where medical care was rudimentary.

The WFP dipped into existing stocks to provide about 2.5 tons of biscuits, wheat and enriched vegetable oil—enough food for several hundred patients and their families for two days, he said. *Reuters*

Over 600 people isolated in Beijing over SARS

BEIJING—China has isolated more than 600 people in Beijing as it races to sever a chain of infection that leaked from a laboratory and could spread as tens of millions travel the country for the annual May Day holidays.

Four teams of World Health Organization experts were due in China this week to help the government to investigate the laboratory accident, to track down people exposed, control infection in hospitals and monitor the situation in the eastern province of Anhui, where the woman died.

The WHO lauded the widening quarantine, saying it showed the government was taking the right steps to check the spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome before the week-long public holiday starting on May 1 when millions will travel.

"This is still not a significant public health threat," Beijing-based WHO spokesperson Bob Dietz said.

"We still feel we know the initial source of infection and we've been able to follow closely the chain of transmission."

All the cases diagnosed in the most recent outbreak—two confirmed and six suspected—were traceable to the laboratory.

The woman who died was the first SARS fatality since last year's epidemic that killed nearly 800 people worldwide.

In stark contrast to last year, when Beijing concealed the extent of the outbreak for weeks, the WHO had yet to receive any sign that cases were going undetected or unreported, Dietz said.

"We are not getting any other background noise," he said.

"Last year at this time, journalists were coming to us, diplomats were coming to us, business people were coming to us."

Across the country, authorities have stepped up surveillance against the disease, which is highly contagious.

The risk of a SARS crisis hitting the capital again was "very small," the head of virus control under the Beijing center for disease control, Wu Jiang, told reporters.

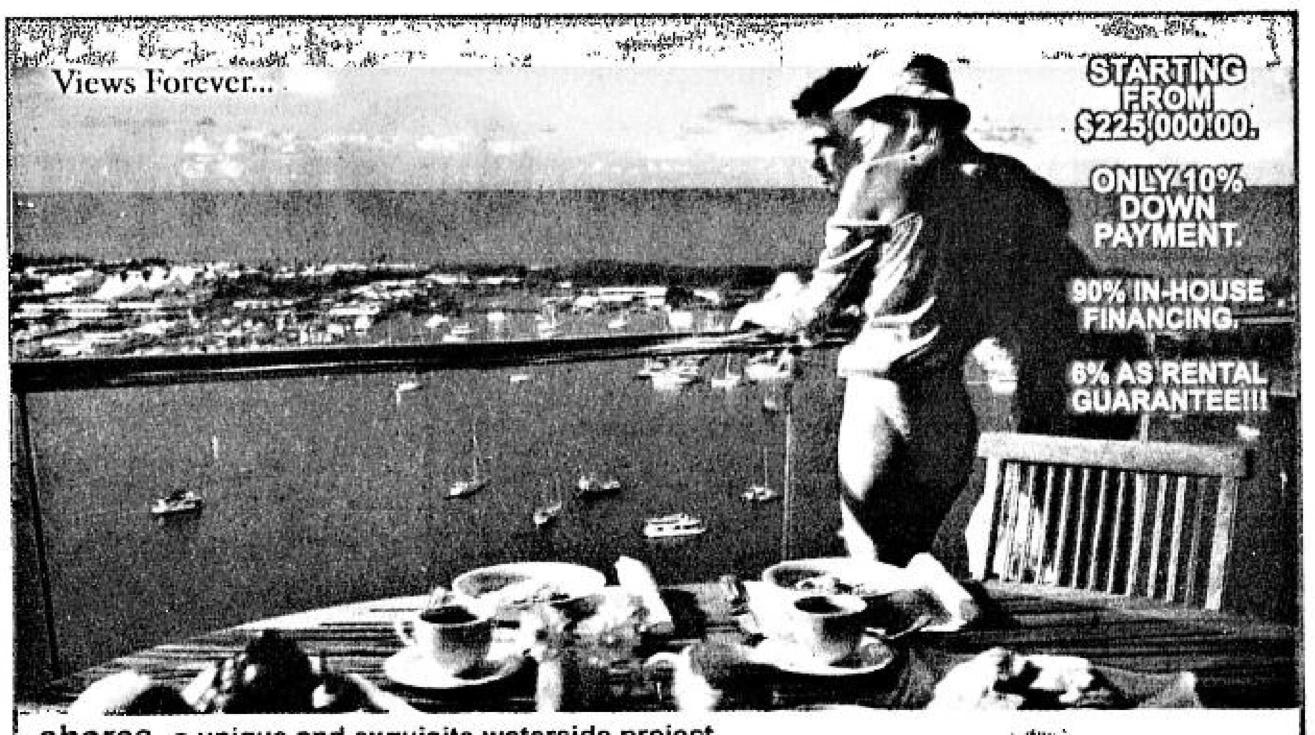
Thailand was screening passengers arriving by air from Beijing as a precaution, a health official said. *Reuters*

Anti-Money Laundering Council

WARNING ON TEXT SCAM

The public is hereby warned about the so-called "text scam" wherein a recipient of a text message is informed that he won millions of pesos in a raffle draw purportedly sponsored by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (PAGCOR), or other institutions. The swindlers who use fictitious names or pose as government officials would try to get their victim to deposit certain amounts of money in a particular bank account designated by the swindlers, supposedly for tax payments and other fees, as a precondition to getting the alleged prize. Once the victim deposits the money, the swindlers immediately withdraw the same, and the victim will no longer be able to get in touch with the swindlers again.

Those who receive such text messages or have been victimized by this fraud are advised to immediately report the matter to the Anti-Money Laundering Council Secretariat, 5/F, EDPC Building, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, Manila, with telephone numbers 536-7358, 308-3982, 524-7011 local 2372.



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Hitting the jackpot

EDITORIAL

WANT to know the secret to guaranteed, risk-free success in games of chance? Run the state-owned company that operates them. A closer look into the disclosures made by Archbishop Oscar Cruz last week, about the abuse of management prerogatives at the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., shows that some Pagcor executives have unconscionably enriched themselves in public service.

Cruz, the influential ex-president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, noted that the Pagcor board increased the retirement package for members of the board of directors from P500,000 for every year of service, provided a term of six years is completed, to a flat rate of P7 million for anyone who has served for at least one year. The amount is generous; it is equivalent to the entire retirement package of ex-Pagcor Chair Alice Reyes, who served for 15 years..

But the new minimum-term requirement is beyond generous; it is, in fact, a telltale sign that the new package of retirement benefits, approved last year when President Macapagal-Arroyo was still officially out of the presidential race, served as the board's insurance against the possibility of a new chief executive occupying Malacañang. It meant that the rawest member of the board could look forward to a P7-million jackpot in the event Ms Macapagal bowed out of office this year.

There are many other details in Cruz's allegations. They fit into a disturbing pattern that has been tracked by the INQUIRER since at least August 2002. (A few other media organizations, such as the Probe Team and Newsbreak, have also helped connect the dots.)

Cruz said Pagcor Chair Efraim Genuino, a close friend of the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, had also green-lighted the purchase of luxury vehicles worth P18.4 million for the use of 13 company officials, including four vehicles worth P6.2 million used as back-up security vehicles for Genuino himself.

But this is only the tip of the iceberg, an iceberg already spotted by the INQUIRER last September. This paper reported then that the company had purchased over 100 cars and other vehicles since January 2001, the same month Ms Macapagal took over as President and appointed Genuino to Pagcor. Total acquisition cost: over P120 million. Most of the cars, two managers told the INQUIRER last year, were for personal use.

To Cruz's allegations, including the claim that Pagcor had spent some P68 million in special projects to boost Ms Macapagal's candidacy, the President responded diplomatically. She directed Pagcor "to deal with this issue with full transparency." She also welcomed "the help of Archbishop Cruz in any inquiry into these matters and his concern over the proper use of public funds."

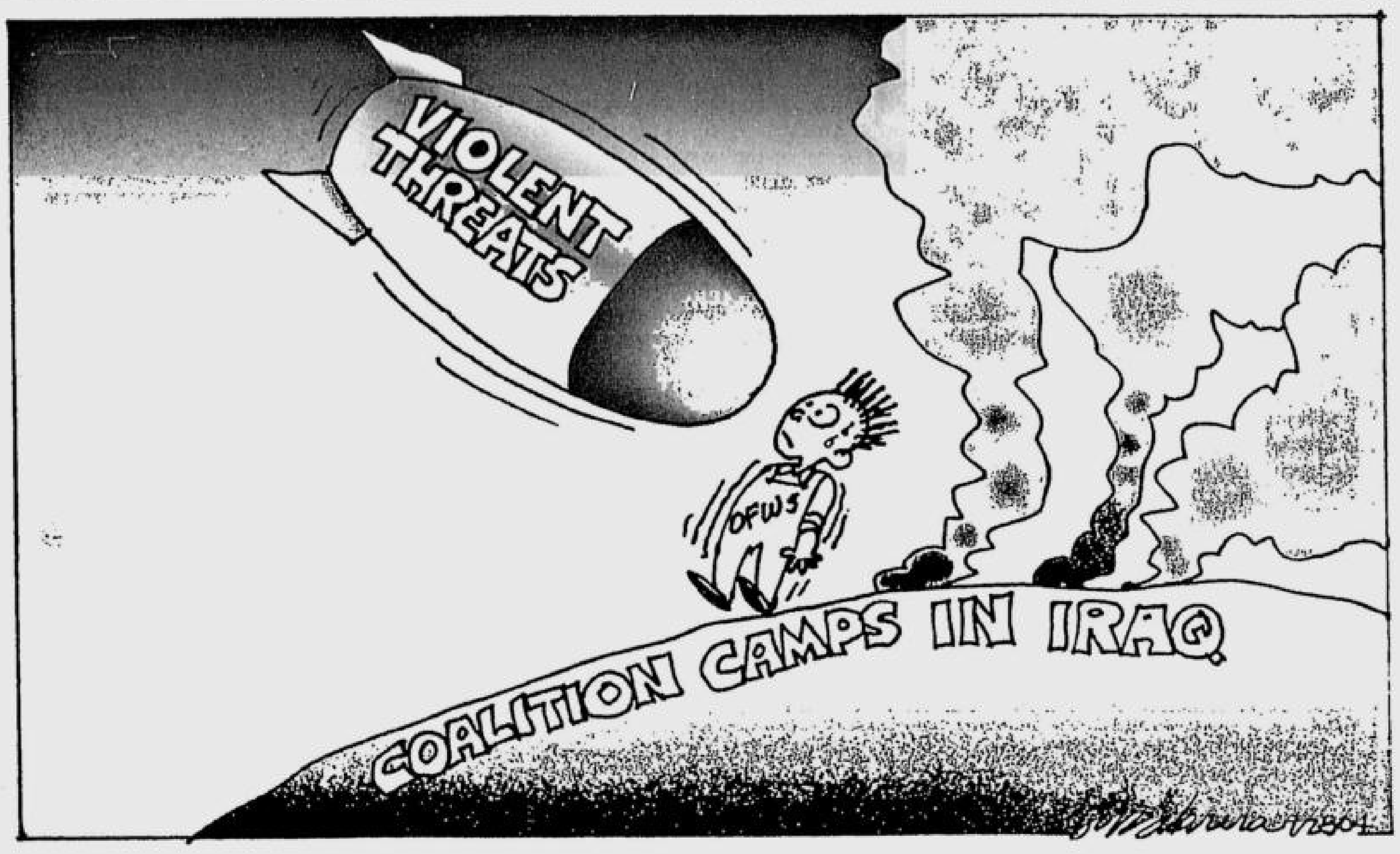
Taking his cue from the chief appointing power, Genuino also struck a humble note. "I personally respect the belief and opinion of Archbishop Oscar Cruz. He is entitled to this (*sic*), like any other free-minded Filipino, and if this anchors on truth, we in the top management of Pagcor are very willing to correct some mistakes or lapses if there are (any)." He added: "Right now, I am personally looking into these."

This is a good sound bite, but disingenuous. It means Genuino will be personally looking into expensive decisions he personally approved, made at a time when Pagcor, under Genuino's personal direction, ran up unprecedented debts to bridge an unprecedented cash shortage.

"To my mind, no law has been violated," Genuino said. "I may stand corrected. This is why I am personally digging into the claims of Cruz, including tracers of business entities dealing with Pagcor. Some or someone, somehow, must be answerable."

The non-confrontational statements from the President and from Genuino are a measure of the respect in which Cruz, a staunch critic of the illegal numbers game *jueteng*, is generally held. But they also have the virtue of finally stating the obvious. They belabor two principles often forgotten when the current Pagcor management rises to defend itself. Pagcor income, though it comes from private gamblers, is public money. And someone must be answerable to the people.

So why isn't the President pressing the Ombudsman to investigate the archbishop's charges? Because that wouldn't be risk-free.



Red tape at MWSS is very long

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LAST April 19, this column revealed that the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System's (MWSS) Aqueduct No. 5, through which water from the Ipo Dam flows to La Mesa Dam and the Balara Filtration Plant, was leaking very badly and that repeated efforts to fix it had failed. The result was that a huge amount of water continued to be wasted, Metro Manila was not getting enough water, the water levels in the Ipo and Angat reservoirs were going down rapidly, and the metropolis might run short of water this summer. The big leaks (there are several), caused by faulty construction, have been going on for years, so you can imagine the trillions of cubic meters of water already lost.

In a letter to the editor last April 26, MWSS Administrator Orlando C. Hondrade admitted these as facts, except the aside "that nothing has been done about the leaks."

He wrote then: "Cruz is right in saying there are leaks along Aqueduct No.5 (built in 1992) and, if not addressed immediately and properly, Metro Manila residents would have a serious water problem in their hands. However, he may have been misinformed to state that nothing has been done about it.

"I would like to inform the public that immediately upon my assumption as MWSS administrator, the initial repair and the subsequent protective works on Aqueduct No. 5 were among the activities on which I focused my attention. Given the gravity of the situation, I immediately advised the President of the situation and presented various options for addressing the problem.

"Initially, the MWSS, together with Manila Water and Maynilad, undertook the repair of three major leaks. However, after observing and evaluating the eventual outcome, the experts in the field recommended the construction of a bypass aqueduct—Aqueduct No. 6. While working on the pre-implementation of this by-pass aqueduct, we undertook protective works on the critical five kilometers of Aqueduct No. 5."

I did state all this information in that column. However, that meeting in Malacañang where the experts recommended construction of a by-pass, took place two years ago. But until now, those monstrous leaks are still wasting water. No announcements of remedial measures being undertaken has been made by either the MWSS or Malacañang, so can you blame me for writing that "nothing has been done about it"?

But Hondrade said the pre-implementation process of the project "which normally would take years" has been "accelerated." The project would be in two phases. Phase 1 is 5.5-km long; phase 2, is 11.5 km. Four contracts for phase 1 have been awarded (cost: P1.2 billion). "Procurement of necessary materials is about to begin and construction work will start in May 2004."

He didn't say how long the project would take, or what would happen to the contractor who laid down the defective Aqueduct No. 5 that would cost the taxpayers at least another P1.2 billion. Note that Aqueducts 1 to 4, constructed earlier and by other contractors, are still all right. But Aqueduct No. 5, the newest of them all, is leaking so badly that a new by-pass aqueduct has to replace it.

At any rate, the lesson here is that red tape in government is still very long, in spite of the boast of President Macapagal-Arroyo early in her borrowed term that she would reduce government red tape. But then she had made many promises that she broke, not least of which is that promise that she would not run for president. Look what she is doing now.

It took the MWSS two long years for its red tape to unwind, and for an emergency case losing trillions of cubic meters of water.

* * *

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos was our guest at the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday (together with KNP senatorial candidate Ernesto Maceda) and I should have informed him about what I am going to relate below. But the forum was already over when I received this SOS from Mayor Lucino Rebamontan of San Julian, Eastern Samar.

Reba is a veteran journalist for Manila newspapers who decided three years ago to run for mayor of his hometown, wanting to help lift his townmates out of grinding poverty. He won and now he is running for reelection.

Eastern Samar is one of our country's poorest provinces (and San Julian is one of the poorest municipalities). It is a member of the so-called Club 19, which is composed of the 19 most economically depressed provinces in the Philippines.

Reba wants to improve the lives of his townmates. But the politicians and police of the province don't want him to succeed. The chief of police and another policeman of San Julian (and this Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos should know and stop) have been transferred to provincial headquarters. The reason: the new OIC police chief is identified with his political opponent; the one he replaced was strictly non-partisan.

"Even before the campaign period started," Reba said, "our congressman, Marcelino Libanan, was saying that he would ensure the victory of my opponent 'at all cost.' You see, I am the only Lakas mayor of Eastern Samar who has not 'surrendered' to him. On top of their vote-buying scheme, Libanan's henchmen are also expected to resort to all means to defeat me.

"My concern is the new police chief. I'm afraid that even if he does not do the job himself, he will most likely allow goons from other places to terrorize voters, snatch ballot boxes, etc."

What do you say, Chair Abalos?

Mortal thoughts

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

SOMEONE apprised me of his theory the other day. When you come to think of it, he said, a leader who is suffering from a sickness, except of course one that prevents him from carrying out his duties, is preferable to one who isn't. Nothing more efficiently stays the hand of greed than intimations of mortality. If you know that your claim to your mortal shell has become more tenuous than that of others, you are going to treat every day of your life as a blessing, or grace. More to the point, you are going to think more in terms of the legacy you want to bequeath than of the wealth you want to conserve.

You will realize that you cannot take your riches and your scepter with you to the grave. You will be concerned with the only thing about you that will live on, which is your name. Which is the name your loved ones carry: they will either be honored or reviled by what you do. You will therefore be motivated to rule well. At least you will be driven not to steal, not to abuse, not to distract yourself with the acquisition of creature comforts, chief of them mistresses.

Well, yes and no.

Not everyone who grows sick gets to think less materialistically or altruistically. No more than people who grow old, which is a state that more surely intimates mortality. The notion that older people get to think more in terms of the legacies they will bequeath, and are therefore less given to surrounding themselves with creature comforts, isn't always validated in life. It's not hard to see its refutation in all the old fogies we see who think they will live forever and continue to devote their lives to relentless acquisition of money and power, by hook or by crook. Some went only from being too young and too corrupt to being too old and still too corrupt.

I guess it takes a certain character to find wisdom in adversity, to find in sickness and growing old a challenge or opportunity (they are the same thing, the Chinese say) to do good. Barring spectacular conversions, such as those of St. Augustine, it takes a certain predisposition to introspection, or self-examination, to go, or get shoved, in that direction. And if Augustine's "Confessions" are to be believed, even while he was sowing his wild oats when he was young (quite literally, he lived a libertine life), he was also always wrestling with his conscience. Of course, he never won then, he did so only when he got older, which never left him wondering what pleasures awaited at the other side of the lofty life. But, no, not everyone who grows old or sick gets to think of embracing heaven in lieu of women, of thinking about self-realization rather than self-gratification.

I think Raul Roco will be one of those who will. He has the character and the disposition, he has the introspection and the capacity for self-examination. Well before he repaired to the United States to seek medical attention, I had no doubt he was the best bet in the presidential elections. I could not understand how an argument that said we should choose the lesser evil between GMA and FPJ, between a future threat to and a present assault on the national patrimony, could possibly prosper when there was clearly an alternative. Why choose evil, lesser or greater, when there was good? Roco is not an unequivocal good, but he is a reasonable one, and reasonability is all we ask for in politics. Of course, the GMA administration accused him of corruption, but that charge never prospered. Not least because the charge would have boomeranged on GMA: Roco was accused of using DepEd funds for producing calendars with his picture on them. How GMA herself has used taxpayers' money is plain for all to see.

The only thing Roco had going against him was his image. It was of one who was aloof, who used his head more than his heart, and who lacked people skills, taking offense easily. It was an image backed in no small way by some people's actual experiences with him. I have heard friends in media complain of his testiness when asked questions he does not particularly like. I have personally known him for some time, and I can say that although much of the bad press is exaggerated, they are not without basis. He can do with matriculating in charm school.

But I don't know that his bout with illness isn't just as effective, if not more so. As I wrote yesterday, there is an uncanny parallel between Franklin D. Roosevelt and him. It hasn't just to do with the fact that as capability goes, Roco is closest to FDR than any of our current presidential candidates. It has to do with the fact that, like FDR, Roco has found himself amid a Great Depression, a nation gripped by joblessness and hopelessness; like FDR, Roco has been stricken with disease that his rivals have claimed to be a career-buster; like FDR, he has found in his sickness a challenge to rise above himself rather than to give in to bitterness.

I can only hope that, like FDR, he will learn huge lessons in humility and see with his heart and not just with his mind the plight of the wretched of the earth. I can only hope that, like FDR, he will rise on wobbly feet from his wheelchair when the occasion demands it—metaphorically speaking, of course—to meet the scourge of economic ravaging and war. I can only hope that, like FDR, he will win the hearts of the voters amid his crippling disease and become one of the best presidents this country has ever had.

* * *

This morning, Roco's homecoming entourage will be passing by Ayala before going to Baclaran. If you are one of those who do not believe these elections are a choice between GMA and FPJ, you might want to be there along the way. Indeed, if you are one of those who believe these elections are a choice between good and evil(s), you might want to throw confetti while at it.

Credible elections

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE RESULTS of the pre-election surveys over the past three months—which show President Macapagal-Arroyo expanding her lead over Fernando Poe Jr. up to 10 points as of the NFO Trends poll during the period April 20-22—send a strong message to both the administration and her opponents.

The message is that there is no need for the administration to cheat the elections to win. If the 10-point gap reflects reality on the ground, the bulge is large enough to allow Ms Macapagal to be expansive about the prospects of sighting the "highest mandate" in the May 10 elections.

Her winning by a landslide is less important to all of us—and for Philippine democracy—than her winning the elections clean and fair. It appears that this message has sunk clearly in the President's mind.

"It looks like we will win," the President told a delegation of party-list representatives and civil society supporters. "The only thing that needs to be done is to make the election credible." She better be sure that it is.

The onus of keeping the elections clean and credible falls more heavily on her shoulders than on the Commission on Elections because it is within her power to ensure honest elections. The Comelec has not been up to the job of setting up a fraud-proof paraphernalia. Its preparation has been marked by complaints about a large number of voters having been excluded from the electoral lists due to faulty registration procedures. Flawed preparation makes the electoral process vulnerable to cheating. But the main responsibility to prevent these flaws from turning into floodgates for massive cheating still lies with the administration.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos is less than reassuring when he said the logistics were in place for the vote. But what worries me is his statement that the Comelec is considering the deployment of soldiers and reservists to election hot spots to avert cheating. This measure reflects that Abalos does not fully understand the magnitude of overseeing elections in the electronic age. During the early post-war years, the most dangerous threat to free elections came from blatant terrorism of voters by private armies of political warlords, who invaded the polling stations to grab ballot boxes and intimidated voters and poll clerks during the tabulation. Warlord terror was countered by a determined administration which used the army and the constabulary to police the polling stations. Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay deployed the ROTC in the 1949 elections to protect the polling stations and voters from the goons of the provincial warlords.

Abalos does not seem to be aware that the main threat to cheating no longer comes from warlord goons. While there are still reports of violence in the run-up to the elections, it is less of a concern than cheating taking place in the polling stations but in the counting process which is facilitated by hi-tech machines.

In the 1986 snap election, the poll results were hijacked not by the Marcos dictatorial apparatus, but in the Comelec vote-count computer system. Results were changed not in the municipal or provincial board of canvassers but in the computer machines at the Comelec headquarters. In the age of "*dagdag bawas*," the warlords have lost the power to cheat elections to the computer specialists. This is why the Comelec quick-count results spewed out by its computers differed radically from the results of Namfrel's quick-count—an independent tabulation group that Abalos had tried to thwart by previously denying it of Comelec accreditation to conduct a quick-count.

The administration cannot be blamed entirely for the faults of the Comelec, supposedly an independent constitutional body. But there are things it can do to plug the holes of vulnerability of the flawed Comelec system. The last thing the administration should do is interfere in the independent count of the Comelec. It is within the power of the administration and the administration coalition to check their overenthusiastic cadres from hijacking the tabulation at whatever level. If it is extremely important that the administration exercises its power to restrain cheating by its cadres, it is equally important that it should not allow its opponents to cheat.

Whether the democratic electoral system holds after May 10 depends upon how free, clean and credible these elections will turn out. Already, opposition quarters, facing the specter of defeat from the poll surveys which have tilted in favor of the administration coalition, are preparing reasons for possible loss, and are alleging that the administration has laid out the mechanism for massive cheating. It should not by default allow these allegations to be validated.

It is critical for the administration to ensure that the elections are clean and seen to be free, and their results are credible. The stakes for democracy are high. The prospects of having a less turbulent and more honest elections are favorable. The level of pre-elections violence is relatively low. The chances of elections with more decisive result than just a cliff-hanger have improved. In such a case, the winner may possibly enjoy a wider electoral mandate and broader legitimacy.

If these elections fail and their results are vitiated by large-scale cheating, we will all reap the whirlwind. The penalties can be horrendous. The next government that comes to power heavily tainted by a stolen election cannot govern. It will be rocked by turbulence worse than the May 1, 2001 rebellion and the relentless gridlock in the Senate. Not only that. If these election fail, the failure can unleash anti-democratic tendencies, lurking in the bowels of the political system, not excluding a coup d'etat.

A century of struggle

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FEW people may be aware that the feminist movement in the Philippines is turning a hundred years old next year. On July 7, 1905, Nuevo Heraldo published details of a meeting of women called by Concepcion Felix, known today as the "first Filipino feminist," to organize themselves into an Asociacion Femenista Filipina (Filipina Feminist Association). In Iloilo, another articulate woman leader, Pura Villanueva, convened a meeting a year later that gave birth to the Asociacion Feminista Ilonga.

Asociacion Feminista Filipina focused its work on social issues and the improvement of women's welfare, thus becoming the first organization that focused on women's issues from a gender perspective. Their efforts led to the founding of La Gota de Leche, the first institution in the Philippines to focus on the care of mothers and children. Gota was set up under the auspices of one of the earliest non-profit agencies of this country, La Proteccion de la Infancia Inc. Since women did not have legal personalities at that time, the efforts of early feminists benefited from the support of that era's most prominent male doctors, with whom La Proteccion was incorporated.

So far, the women of the Asociacion had kept within the boundaries of what Filipino society of that day deemed was "proper" for women, especially women of a particular social class. They would break out of these protective—and restrictive—borders with their involvement in the struggle for legal equality with men. If they had known the struggle would entail decades of commitment on their part, would the women have ventured into the fray as eagerly as they did?

* * *

WHILE their sisters in Manila were primarily engaged in "good works," the Asociacion Feminista Ilonga commenced what would become a 30-year long struggle for Filipino women to win the right to vote, and to run for political office. It inspired women's associations and clubs to form coalitions across sectors and provinces and focus their efforts on winning the vote. These included the establishment of formations like the National Federation of Women's Clubs in 1921, the National League of Filipino Women in 1922, the Women Citizens League and the Philippine Association of University Women in 1928, whose priority objectives included lobbying for the passage of a law that would extend the right to vote to women as given to men, equally.

In December of 1933, a law was finally passed by the Philippine Senate, and was signed into law by Governor General Frank Murphy, to take effect on Jan. 1, 1935. But the law was superseded with the passage in 1934 of a new Commonwealth Constitution. Women were given an additional requirement: to produce 300,000 "yes" votes in a plebiscite, before they were extended the right to vote. The fired-up suffragists, led by what one woman scholar was moved to dub the "*panuelo* activists," after their ubiquitous kerchiefs worn on the neckline of the *baro't saya*, defied social conventions and traveled across the length and breadth of the archipelago, convincing women it was in their interest to win the right to vote.

On April 30, 1937, Plebiscite Day, 447,725 "yes" votes were counted, with Leyte, Iloilo and Cebu bringing in the biggest number of votes. On Sept. 15, 1937, women were at last recognized as equal citizens of this country enjoying every civil right available to men, including the right to vote and the right to run for office. Filipinas thus became the first women in Asia to be granted suffrage.

* * *

THE SUFFRAGISTS and feminists of the early 20th century were only following in the footsteps of other Filipino women in previous centuries struggling to improve their lives and conditions while joining in the national struggle for liberation and independence. At the end of the 19th century, the women of Malolos appealed to the Spanish governor general for the right to be educated in the Spanish language, a right denied them by the local cleric. Their bravery was rewarded by a famous letter from Rizal, who praised the role of women as shapers of society.

As the revolutionary fires heated up, anti-clerical leaders formed a Masonic branch for women, while the women of the Katipunan organized a women's branch headed by Josefa Rizal, Gregoria de Jesus and Marina Dizon. Generalas Teresa Magbanua and Agueda Kahabagan were noted for their battlefield victories in the Revolution. During the Filipino-American War of 1899, Hilaria Aguinaldo presided over the Women's Red Cross.

* * *

THOUGH ignored by scholars and their role obscured in written history, women continued to take up the challenge of securing both their personal liberties as well as the nation's freedom. During World War II, while the men waged a covert guerilla war against the Japanese occupation, women took on the roles of couriers, spies, and even fighters. Today, women are engaged in the struggle to mainstream gender concerns in government and all spheres of life, including politics, while fighting the most glaring manifestations of gender inequality, especially violence.

But even as we advance women's rights to full equality with men, we remain conscious of the need to look back and acknowledge the women who went before us and showed us the way.

Mindful of the historical significance of the date, on April 30, Friday, La Proteccion de la Infancia Inc., which provided most of the data in this column, will host the first multi-sectoral meeting to form a working committee for the celebration of the Centennial of the Women's Movement in our country and in Asia. For more details, please contact Vangie Quinial of Women's Media Circle at 734-6840 or 735-9687, or Mayet Sumalino of Gota de Leche at 736-9508.

'Askals'

COMMENTARY

Rosary Diane B. Maligalig
Institute on Church and Social Issues

> The number of Filipinos willing to try their luck in foreign lands is an indication that the government is not doing enough for its citizens

ONE dusty summer night, riding a tricycle, I noticed a fellow passenger with a puppy. The puppy was an *askal* (street dog)—probably just a month old—uneasy though attentive to the things it was seeing, yet remaining quiet and uncomplaining.

A typical scene? Yes, indeed. But thinking deeper about it, it was not unlike what happens to a number of overseas Filipino workers in the foreign countries where they work.

Askals are often maltreated and worse—cooked into *azucena*. The owners usually say—"*hindi naman nakakapanghinayang 'yan, askal lang naman 'yan* (It's okay to cook that dog, after all, it's just an *askal*)." I remember I once had a puppy which died after being run over by a vehicle. I cried really hard because I loved the puppy—only to know that our neighbors were asking for its dead body so they could cook it. Upon learning about this, I went into a hysteria. "*Patay na nga hindi pa gagalangin* (The dog's dead, and it's not given respect)!" I yelled. Thus, my puppy was given a decent burial.

Some OFWs are treated abroad—very much like *askals*—almost worthless, just good for meat. Remember Debbie Remorozo, a registered Filipino nurse who was found brutally murdered in her flat in London? Or most recently Pipay Cruz, whose decomposing body was found buried in the floor of a phony doctor's home in the United States? These are just some of the cases involving Filipinos who die inhuman deaths.

Sometimes I wonder if our government is really concerned about its citizens. Many Filipinos—like *askals*—are illegal immigrants or TNTs (*tago ng tago*) in foreign countries. Statistics also show that every day 3,500 Filipinos leave for jobs abroad. The number of Filipinos willing to try their luck in foreign lands is an indication that the government is not doing enough for its citizens.

Recent statistics show that the unemployment rate has again increased: from last year's 10.6 percent to this year's 11 percent. In January of this year, the number of the unemployed Filipinos was recorded at 3.9 million. The most surprising and unbelievable figures are those showing the National Capital Region with the highest unemployment rate at 6.9 percent. (Philippine Labor Force Survey, January 2004)

The NCR, as we all know, is the metropolis. It is what *provincianos* consider their "great hope." But from the statistics, the NCR isn't really the greener pasture that *provincianos* perceive it to be. This is probably one of the reasons behind the phenomenon of migration from the Philippines.

The present wave of migration of Filipinos started way back in the 1970s when thousands of our countrymen left the country to work in the Middle East either as construction workers or blue-collar professionals. They left because they found it hard to earn a living in the country. Sadly this migration has been going on for the last four decades.

Though migration has brought in billions of dollars in revenues for our country, it has also its adverse impact on Philippine society, particularly on Filipino families and on how other nations look at us as a people.

Not many of us realize that the way Filipino workers are treated abroad may be reflective of the credibility of our government, among other things. With the May 10 polls comes another opportunity for us to change the way foreigners treat us. If we elect a leader who will erode the confidence of foreign investors and the entire international community, then we will only further reinforce their low regard of us.

We must choose a president who will make us proud of being Filipinos, in the sense that he or she is not ashamed to fight for our rights so that we can stand tall in the community of nations.

Sometimes due to the prejudices of other nations, being a Filipino is a disadvantage. A few years back, my aunt and I were in a shopping district in Bangkok. We went inside this shop which sold dresses; when we found some nice ones and haggled. The Thai owner became irritated and said that we were like that because we were Filipinos. It might not have bothered me too much in my much younger years. But when I started working, paying my taxes, becoming aware of what is happening around me, particularly the corruption and excessive politicking by our leaders, I could not but give that remark a second thought.

Hopefully, come May 10, we will elect a leader who will not only revive our country's economy but also boost our peoples' morale; so that we can once again be proud to be Filipinos anywhere in the world.

Tomorrow's smile

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"*UMAASA ako.*" Jerica Claudine Torrado used that declaration of hope to end her speech delivered in behalf of graduating students of UP's College of Social Sciences and Philosophy last Saturday.

Ay, hope. Earlier in the afternoon, people's spirits weren't too high as faculty members milled around talking about the elections and the dismal lack of choices. But the mood was to change as the college's recognition ceremonies unfolded.

It helped that our special guest was Dr. Ma. Lourdes Arellano Carandang, better known to many as Honey, the well-known child psychologist. Honey's talk was entitled "The Triumph of Truth-Telling and Good Work," one which started out with a rather strong statement: Lying has become a way of life. Honey referred to Scott Peck's "People of the Lie," a book that talks about evil in the world.

I looked up the book and thought it would be worthwhile to quote his definition of evil as "the desire of certain people to control others—to make them controllable… to diminish their unpredictability and originality, to keep them in line."

Honey was more concrete, describing people who can never accept their own flaws, quick to blame others when things go wrong, and to go around demolishing other people's reputations. Honey was worried about how the lying culture threatens to anesthetize us. Peck is even more forceful, viewing the lies as an evil which eventually extinguishes the human spirit.

It's adults who propagate lying as a way of life, Honey pointed out, and we often overlook how we might inadvertently contribute to this culture. Honey referred to the habit we have within families of covering up (*pinagtatakpan*) for an errant family member, rather than helping the person make up for mistakes or shortcomings.

To overcome the "triumph of malice" (she was referring to UP president Dodong Nemenzo's recent open letter on how Sen. John Osmeña had derailed a bill to reform UP), Honey appealed for a return to "truth-telling" and pointed to children and young people as the sources for truth-telling. Drawing from her own clinical practice, she paid homage to young people who, despite having been victimized by violence and sexual abuse, were still able to speak the truth and live on.

She also reminded the audience about the story of the vain emperor, strutting around after being told he had been given the finest of new clothes. The adult subjects, sycophants all, cheered him on until an innocent child shouted out the, well, bare truth: "The emperor's naked!"

From truth-telling, Honey went on to describe the need for "good work," drawing from the work of Howard Gardner. She reminded graduates that good work is where excellence meets ethics, where competence meets character. For good work to happen, we need a moral compass, a moral identity.

The words "moral identity" kept running in my mind for the rest of the afternoon. How, I wondered, do we get young people to develop this moral identity when there are so few role models?

Jerica Torrado's speech provided the answer. Jerica began by vividly describing what she wanted to remember of college life, of the *barkada* and *tambayan* (peer groups and gathering places), of the good times and not-so-good ones, of falling in and out of love.

Jerica wasn't just talking to her fellow students. Her speech clearly appealed to the faculty and parents as well, her memories of university life reminding us of our own good times, and of the good life.

Jerica moved from memory lane into the future, described in the most wonderful of metaphors as tomorrow's smile, *ang ngiti ng bukas*. Jerica chose to remind the audience that amid the allure of tomorrow, she and her classmates were well aware of the many problems we face as a nation, of poverty and unemployment, of corruption, of violence.

It might seem paradoxical but because Jerica remembered, and wanted us to remember what was behind tomorrow's smile, we can be hopeful. The young will always be there for truth-telling if we, too, become like the emperor in his new Oblation-style clothes.

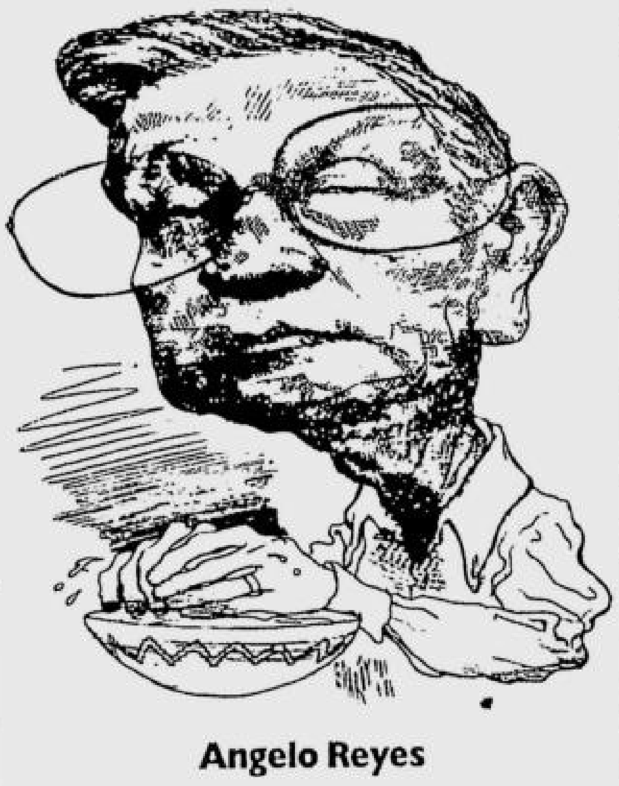
There was more to Jerica's speech. "*Umaasa ako,*" she had said, followed by an almost defiant closure: "*Pasiya ko ito, ako ito,*" her hopes raised high with full conviction, *pasiya*, and that conviction asserted as her identity: *ako ito*, this is me.

Somehow, without having met to compare their speeches, Ma. Lourdes Arellano Carandang, Class of 1964 and Jerica Claudine Y. Torrado, Class of 2004, had crafted common messages about hope and moral identity, messages for the May elections and beyond.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

IN THE NEWS



Angelo Reyes

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LETTERS

Blind followers of surveys

I DON'T think the electability of presidential candidates can be measured in the surveys of Pulse Asia and Social Weather Stations. We should not entrust our country's future to just anyone landing No. 1 in whichever survey.

Surveys alone cannot sufficiently guide the people to vote for the right candidate. What these do instead is program us to believe that our votes will only be wasted if we cast them for those who aren't doing well in the surveys. These subtly tell us not to think prudently in choosing the right and competent leader. Surveys make us blind followers. These guide us to nowhere. I view them as totally unfair to the voting public who are supposed to be controlling the result of the elections and not them being controlled by some vested interest groups.

Surveys do not make sense simply because these do not truly represent the voice of the majority of voters. Voters should know that when they vote according to conscience, which tells them what is right, they are actually making a stand. Gone are the days when the majority of voters took a stand. It's time to go back to that honorable practice. *Parang awa niyo na. Bumangon na tayo!*

—MARILYN G. FRIVALDO,
13 Villa Verde
Bahayang Pag-asa,
Imus, Cavite 4103

Participatory governance in Pozorrubio

GREETINGS and kudos for your editorial "Participatory governance." (PDI, 3/30/04)

I salute Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani for his vision and mission for Nueva Vizcaya through the principle of "participatory governance," which is akin to our "participative management" of governance in Pozorrubio, Pangasinan. Likewise, I wish to commend Dr. Pilar Ramos-Jimenez of the Dela Salle University for her book "Celebrating Participatory Governance in Nueva Vizcaya."

I would like to premise our idea of participative management of governance in Pozorrubio by saying that if people are involved in the planning of an endeavor, they'd care for its implementation and its evaluation. Participatory management of governance thus is the key ingredient of a successful undertaking for the social, political and economic uplift of the community.

—HERIBERTO A. BAUTISTA,
municipal consultant,
Municipality of Pozorrubio,
Pangasinan

Beware of abusive bodyguards

I WOULD like to appeal to people who have bodyguards—please tell them not to be abusive. In the afternoon of April 18, my family was on our way home from an enjoyable weekend in Batangas. When we got to the South Luzon Expressway, we noticed this white Toyota Revo swerving and cutting other cars. We figured it was escorting a black Nissan Cefiro. Both cars had flashers and sirens.

When the Revo got close to our vehicle, its driver swerved us off the road and since we were already on the right unpaved shoulder, we had nowhere to go. The passenger side window of the Revo then opened and a man inside pointed an M16 rifle at my family. My three children started crying and screaming. Because of the chaos, we decided to change lanes. When we got to the left side of the white Revo, the driver opened his window and pointed his hand gun at us.

I didn't understand why, since he was already right behind the Cefiro he was escorting. My children were all scared. At this point, I called the Philippine National Construction Corp. and 117 to report the incident. Coincidentally, these two vehicles were exiting Filinvest which was also our exit. Both vehicles were on the E-Pass lane and both just ignored the PNCC policemen who flagged them to stop. As we exited, we asked the PNCC police why the two vehicles were not stopped. All they said was that the vehicles just didn't stop. I was very disappointed with the PNCC police since I felt they were useless. On the other hand, 117 was very efficient, reporting the incident to the Muntinlupa police which unfortunately could not locate the two vehicles. 117 also called us after 20 minutes to check if we got home safely.

At this time, these bodyguards are somewhere out there pointing their guns at other people. Let us not tolerate abusive security on our streets. I hope that the employer of these bodyguards is not an incumbent or an aspiring leader of this country.

—PAMELA R. FRANCISCO,
prf@i-manila.com.ph

Pulitzer awardees with Filipino roots

AN ARTICLE in your April 18 issue, "Lessons from a Pinay Pulitzer Prize photo winner," by Gil Francis Arevalo was not quite accurate when it reported, "It took more than six decades before another Filipino won a Pulitzer award."

Alexander Tomas Tizon won the prestigious Pulitzer Prize in Journalism in 1997 for investigative reporting. Tizon was then working for Seattle Times. He won the award for his investigation of widespread corruption and inequities in the federal-sponsored housing program for Native Americans. The investigation inspired much needed reforms.

Tizon is now the chief of the Los Angeles Times bureau in Seattle, Washington. His parents are Frank and Leticia Tizon who were originally from the Philippines and who migrated to the United States in the 1960s. I have known the Tizons since they came to the United States.

—BOB AGUIRRE,
11340 NW Blackhaw Drive,
Portland, Oregon, USA

* * *

THIS is about the two stories you wrote on Cheryl Diaz-Meyer, who recently won a Pulitzer for photography. In both stories, the INQUIRER noted that she was the first Filipino to win the Pulitzer in 60 years.

Carlos P. Romulo, of course, won it for his wartime stories in 1942. You forgot to mention two Filipino-Americans writing for Seattle Times, both of whom won the Pulitzer in 1997. Byron Acohido, the aerospace reporter of Seattle Times won for best reporting on his extensive and detailed coverage of the Boeing's 737 rudder control problems. Acohido's story resulted in the Federal Aviation Administration imposing new safety requirements.

Alex Tizon, also of Seattle Times, was the lead writer of a reporting team that won the award for investigative reporting which exposed the corrupt and unfair practices in the housing programs for Native Americans, funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. It also resulted in HUD reforms.

Acohido is actually Filipino-Korean who was born in Hawaii. He studied in the University of Oregon and has been a journalist for almost 30 years.

Tizon was born in the Philippines and left for the United States when he was 4 years old. He also studied at the University of Oregon and got his master's degree from the University of California in Stanford. He had been writing for the Seattle Times since 1986.

—FRANK CIMATU,
cimatu@journalist.com

THE FIRST story on Cheryl Diaz-Meyer (PDI, 4/8/04) noted that she is the fourth Filipino-American to win a Pulitzer. A follow-up story on her visit to Legazpi City (PDI, 4/17/04) missed the other winners. Our apologies to Alex Tizon and Byron Acohido.—Ed.

Watch your arithmetic, Mr. Comelec

THE COMMISSION on Elections made a mistake in designatng Feb. 10-May 8, 2004 as the campaign period for national officials (president, vice president and senators) claiming that to be the 90-day campaign period. However, if we were to check the calendar, the period constitutes only 87 days as shown here: Feb. 10-29 (20 days); March 1-31 (31 days); April 1-30 (28 days only as candidates were prohibited to campaign on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday); May 1-8 (8 days). So if you add 20, 31, 28 and 8, the total will only be 87 days, so that the national candidates were shortchanged by 3 days.

The same mistake was committed in designating March 25-May 8, 2004 as the campaign period for local officials. The period covers only 43 days (instead of 45), which means local candidates were shortchanged by two days.

What happened to your arithmetic, Comelec?

—PAUL R. MORTEL,
MBLA Court, Malanday, Marikina City

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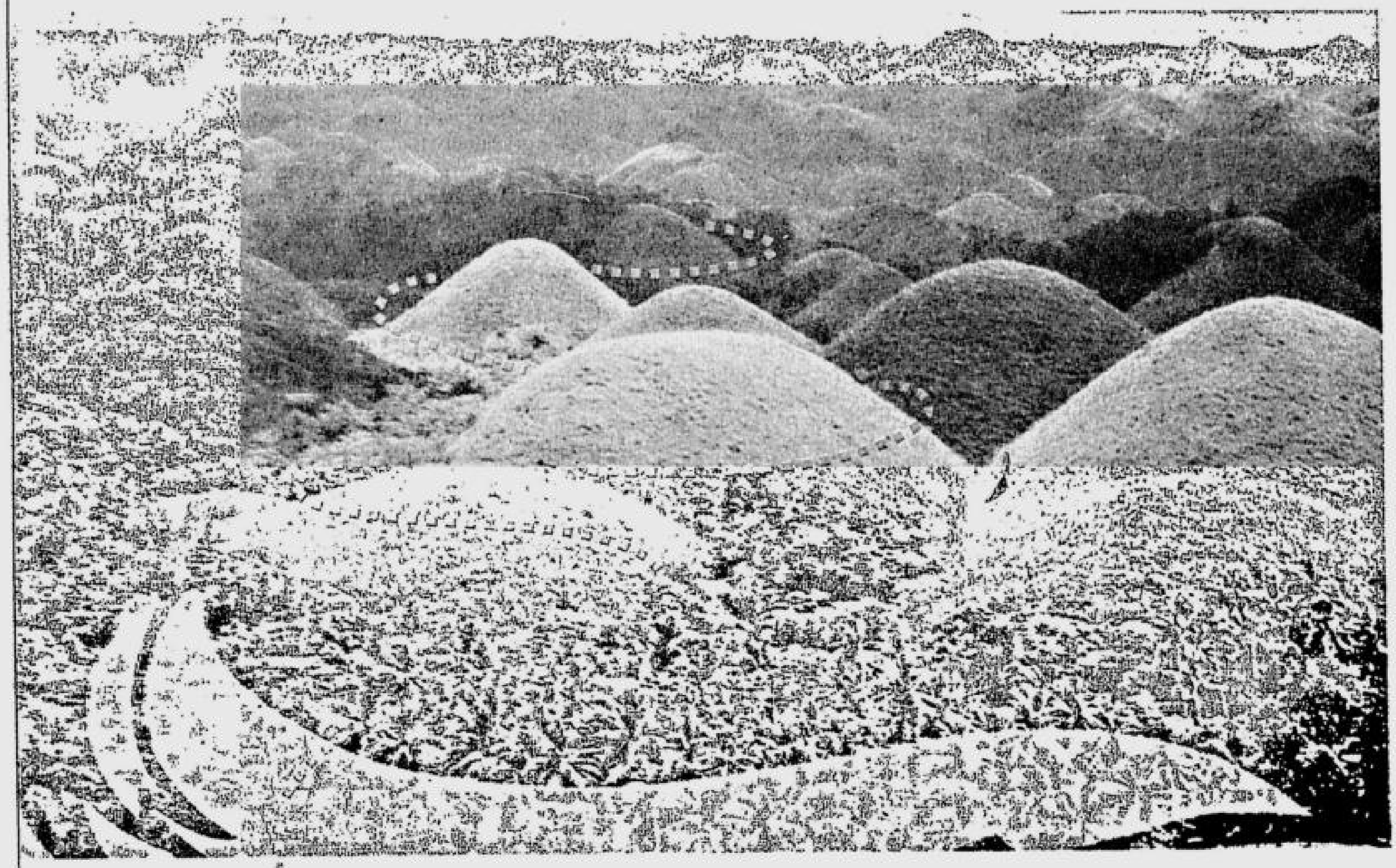

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Militants assail US poll watch team

LUCENA CITY—A militant party-list group assailed the deployment of some 100 American election observers to monitor the May 10 elections.

"This arrangement is totally reprehensible. It smacks of interference. Without doubt, the US is keen on ensuring the victory of certain candidates who have pledged their loyalty to the US political and economic agenda," Crispin Beltran, Anakpawis national political party chair, said in a statement.

Beltran said it is the sovereign right of the Filipino people to hold elections free from the interference of foreign forces.

"The US could already be supporting a different candidate other than the incumbent," he said.

On Sunday, in a statement released by Malacañang, the US Embassy in Manila said it would deploy observers to polling stations around the country to "observe the conduct of the May elections, identify best practices and provide recommendations for changes in future elections."

The US Embassy team of watchers will join the contingent that the US Agency for International Development (USAID) is also sending over to observe the elections.

Beltran said the Macapagal administration signed on April 16 a "cooperative" agreement with the USAID and the Consortium for Elections and Political Processes Strengthening, allowing the foreigners to monitor and observe the May elections.

However, Malacañang reportedly denied that the President was a party to the agreement.

Beltran said if President Macapagal-Arroyo truly had no hand in it, "she should immediately scrap the agreement."

He said that the US should not be allowed to interfere with the May elections. He said the US will dispatch operatives from the Central Intelligence Agency as part of the observer team.

"They have an ulterior agenda, and no doubt this agenda is in line with the US' efforts to maintain its stranglehold and influence over Philippine politics and government," he said.

He said the US seeks to make its presence felt and assert its influence over the results of the elections.

"So much for independence when foreign intelligence agents can broker an official agreement with the Comelec allowing them to interfere in the polls," he added.

The observers will consult with the Comelec, the National Movement for Free Elections and the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting as well as support local media groups monitoring the elections to promote unbiased reporting. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Party-list group seeks release of abducted members

CALAMBA CITY—Youth party-list group Anak ng Bayan-Southern Tagalog yesterday condemned the abduction of two of its members in Quezon.

Rondel Colina, regional coordinator of Anak ng Bayan-ST, said they received reports from their provincial chapter in Quezon that two Anak ng Bayan-Quezon members—Oliver Ostoral, 27, resident of Mauban, Quezon, and Ramil Adornado, 19, resident of Real, Quezon—were missing since 5 a.m. Sunday in Barangay Mangilag, Candelaria where they were distributing invitations for the Anak ng Bayan-Quezon congress.

He said the coordinator of Quezon reported that Adornado called another member of Anak ng Bayan and told him he was taken by the military.

"This is an outright disrespect and violation of our rights as a legitimate party-list (group)," Colina said.

"We know that our two members are being detained by the military and we call for their immediate release unharmed. Just as other party-list groups, our youth party-list should also be given due respect and be free to hold campaigns, sorties, and other activities," Colina said.

In Bicol, different militant groups are also calling for the immediate release of 24 persons allegedly taken by the military in Camarines Sur.

Willy Marbella of Anak Pawis party-list group said that based on their investigation, 24 persons had gone missing since March 1.

The group has also recorded four cases of murder, two of them involving Virgie Vetmen, 19, and Jesus Bongalon, a barangay councilor in Payak, Bato, Camarines Sur.

Marbella identified the towns of Tinambac, Lagonoy, Goa, Presentacion, Caramoan and Garchitorena as the highly militarized areas where most cases of alleged abductions occurred.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and other militant groups in Bicol are now preparing frustrated murder and robbery cases against the 42nd Infantry Battalion headed by Col. Nilo Perfecto after the alleged harassment of the military on a convoy of six party-list groups in Mabalud-balud, Tigaon Camarines Sur last April 18.

Beverly Quintillian, Bayan-Bicol spokesperson, claimed that soldiers of the 42nd IB tortured some of their members and took some of their belongings like banners and cellular phones. *Clarice Colting and Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Fire bureau exec, 5 others nabbed for rape

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—An official of the Bureau of Fire Protection and his five men are facing charges for allegedly raping a 17-year-old housemaid at the BFP Station in Cadiz City, Negros Occidental.

A complaint of abduction and rape were filed yesterday against Senior Insp. Romeo Gigato, BFP chief in Cadiz, his five personnel and two unidentified persons.

Chief Insp. Edgardo Ordaniel, Cadiz police chief, said they filed the complaint before the Cadiz prosecutor's office.

Also named respondents were Fire Officer 1 Andrew Zamora, and fire volunteers Alex Villanueva, Roxanne Laguera, Rogelino Canedo and Antonio Magracia.

The fire volunteers are casuals of the Cadiz city government who were detailed at the fire station.

Ordaniel said the two unidentified persons were also fire volunteers.

The six are now detained at the police station in Cadiz, 65 kilometers north of this city.

The complaint stemmed from the allegations of Maria (not her real name), Villanueva's housemaid, that she was brought to and repeatedly raped at the fire station from April 18 to 22.

Ordaniel said Maria claimed that Villanueva raped her twice on April 18 inside his home at Grandville Subdivision in Cadiz.

He then brought her to fire station where she was allegedly gang raped by the respondents, he said.

The girl was kept inside the fire station until she was able to escape in the evening of April 22, said Ordaniel.

AN INVISIBLE CRIME

Many of us may not see it. Most may not care... but intellectual property rights are constantly being violated.

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This means that as soon as one creates an original idea, one owns it, with no need for registration. Recently, advertising materials were added to the list of works automatically protected by the Intellectual Property law.

Unfortunately, there are those who tend to take these rights for granted. For instance, when a political ad, in the desire to ride on the popularity of a successful ad campaign, copies the idea behind it, without consent… that is infringement. They seem to forget that many of these concepts are created for the sole purpose of promoting the brands for which they were commissioned.

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NPAs stop Capiz campaign rally

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels on Sunday stopped a political rally in Tapaz town, Capiz and demanded from candidates their permits to campaign (PTC).

The rebels divested the candidates' three cellular phones and P5,000, said Jose Gloria Jr., mayoral candidate of the Aksyon Demokratiko in Tapaz.

This was the second reported incident of NPA rebels intercepting candidates in Capiz. The first was on April 14 in Maayon town.

Senior Supt. Norlito Bautista, Capiz police director, however, denied the Maayon incident.

In a statement, Bautista refuted the earlier account of the incident by Capt. Lowen Marquez, spokesperson of the Army's 47th Infantry Battalion.

Marquez, who cited intelligence sources, said the entire slate of mayoral candidate Honorio Diaz was held by rebels in the hinterland village on Bongbongan.

The Army spokesman said Diaz's group was only released after the candidates paid P50,000 and after they were divested of their cellular phones and two high-powered firearms.

Bautista said he talked to Diaz who "categorically" denied Marquez's account. He also echoed the earlier denial of the incident of former Capiz Gov. Jose Borda, a candidate for representative of the first district of Capiz, who was allegedly with Diaz's group.

"The alleged victims themselves denied that the incident happened so it's just hearsay," Bautista told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

In the Tapaz incident, around five heavily armed rebels cut short a political rally in the hinterland village of Aglinab, about 6 km from the town proper, said Gloria in a telephone interview.

Gloria said he was not around during the incident but joined his slate after the rebels had already left.

The rebels talked for 15 minutes to vice mayoral candidate Teodolo Garbo and eight candidates for councilor. "They checked whether the members of my slate had firearms and PTCs," said Gloria.

Gloria said the rebels later left, taking with them the cellular phones and cash.

Poll streamers flood Pampanga capital town

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—In this Pampanga capital city, streamers do the talking against vote-buying and black propaganda.

Two weeks to the May 10 elections and while the city is crammed with campaign materials of national and local candidates, the conscience-pricking streamers have sprouted overnight on major roads here.

Some are found at the town centers of the province's four districts.

The streamers include the compromising "*Kunin ang pera, sundin ang konsensya* (Get the money, follow your conscience)."

Another makes a strong anti-vote buying stance: "*Botong binayaran, magdurusa ang bayan* (A vote that is bought will make the country suffer)."

One promotes patriotism: "*Ang pagmamahal sa bayan ay hindi mababayaran* (There is no price for love of country)."

Another takes the cudgels for the youth: "*Balen at kayanakan, nanung bukas mu nung pisali ke ing boto ku?* (Nation and youth, what future will you have if I sell my vote)?"

Over the weekend, two big streamers decrying misinformation have appeared.

"Black propaganda, *gawain ng walang plataporma* (Black propaganda is the work of a candidate without platform)," says one.

The camp of gubernatorial cadidate Mark Lapid is believed to be behind the publication of "Pampanga Libre."

The first issue of this tabloid claimed that Lapid's rival, Rep. Juan Pablo "Rimpy" Bondoc, had withdrawn from the race.

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Tanong ng Bayan
INQ TV
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Away ni JV, Jinggoy: May Epekto Ba Sa Erap Magic?
Nang nasama si Jinggoy Estrada sa senatorial lineup ni FPJ, naiwasan ang muntikang sagupaan ng magkapatid na Jinggoy at JV. Pero tuloy ang kanilang alitan; magkaiba ang mga kandidatong kanilang sinusuportahan. May epekto ba ito sa tinatawag na Erap magic? Ang sagot nina vice mayoralty candidates Philip Cezar, Boy Celes, at Totoy Bernardo, at ni JV at Jinggoy. Tunghayan ngayong alas-10 ng gabi, sa ABC. (May replay bukas, alas-8 ng umaga)
ABC

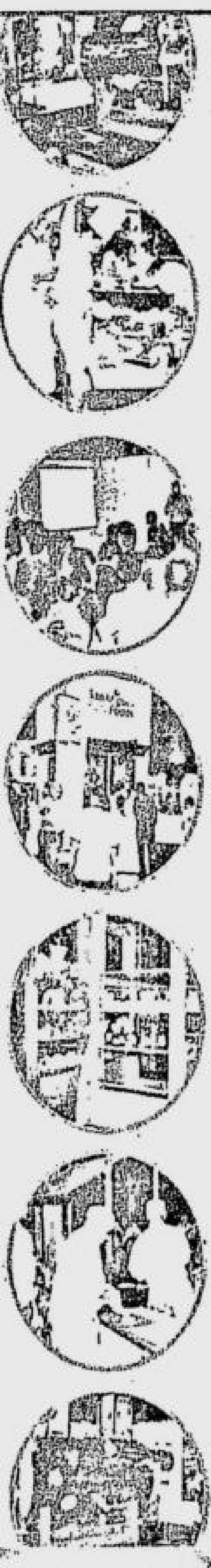
Soldiers kill cop, civilian

DAVAO CITY—Six soldiers allegedly shot to death the police chief of Laak town in Compostela Valley and his civilian companion following an altercation on Monday night.

A report reaching the regional police command here identified the victims as Insp. George Torres and civilian Edgar Basot.

The shooting allegedly happened inside a videoke bar.

Torres allegedly asked the suspects if they were soldiers.
Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau



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Mindanao tribe leaders leave FPJ campaign

COTABATO CITY—Fernando Poe Jr. continues to lose his political machinery in Mindanao, with supporters defecting from his camp to another party.

The latest batch to defect, this time to the camp of President Macapagal-Arroyo, includes Poe's coordinator for the indigenous peoples (IPs) in Mindanao.

A few weeks ago, a large group of Poe supporters in the island's northern provinces, including Cagayan de Oro City, shifted their allegiance to the camp of Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Datu Amerol Gullam Ambiong, Mindanao coordinator for Muslims of the Progressive and Responsive Organizations for Gloria (PRO-Gloria), yesterday said Abubakar Campong, Poe's IP coordinator for Mindanao and at least 10 municipal coordinators from Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur and General Santos City, have abandoned the actor's campaign bandwagon to support Ms Macapagal.

FPJPM members

In a statement, Ambiong said that the defectors were card-bearing members of the Filipinos for Peace, Justice and Progress Movement (FPJPM) headed by Boots Cadsawan.

"They realized that only President Arroyo, among the presidential candidates, has shown commitment to rehabilitate Muslim Mindanao especially the conflict-affected areas," Ambiong said.

He said the actor's supporters have decided to switch camps after a series of meetings with PRO-Gloria leaders.

But former Maguindanao Gov. Zacaria Candao, regional chair of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP) in Central Mindanao, said he was not aware of the defections.

He said he could also not confirm the membership in the FPJPM of the alleged defectors because many people in Mindanao have been claiming that they belong to Poe's camp.

Candao said if ever the defections were real, there is only one reason for it.

Democratic

"I suspect these people were forced to (become) turncoats because of money. They could have been bribed to do that," he said.

Candao said the KNP respects the decision of its supporters "under a democratic system."

Estrellita Juliano, KNP mayoral candidate here, said the availability of funds has been hounding the Poe campaign since the start of the election period.

"*Talagang gipit sa pondo* (We really don't have funds)," unlike the administration, which has unlimited resources she said.

Juliano said local KNP candidates have been relying on their own resources because "up to now we are still waiting for funding from Manila" supporters of Poe.

"We don't know whether the national party directorate would give us the amount that it promised to finance our proclamation rally this week," she said.

In Davao City, at least 700 self-proclaimed supporters of Poe and Lacson also announced that they are already going for President Macapagal.

They announced their defection during a gathering of coconut farmers in the city on Sunday, which Ms Macapagal had attended.

More defectors

Gilbert Fabian, a self-confessed Lacson supporter, said he feared that martial law would be restored once the former police chief sits as president.

Raymundo Batuginas, who said he always idolized Poe, said the actor's lack of platform for governance had discouraged him from continuing to support Poe's candidacy.

Ms Macapagal was jubilant with the announcements of the defections and vowed to work for more reforms, particularly in the coconut industry. ***Charlie Señase and Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Mining firm gives school building to tribal folk

MATI, Davao Oriental—A multinational mining company has donated a school building to the indigenous peoples of Barangay Macambol here in a bid to win their support for its mining project inside the ancestral land of Mandaya and Higaonon natives.

Edgar Martinez, president of the Mindanao Association for Mineral Industries Inc., said some "anti-development groups" in the town have cried foul over their donation of a school building.

"When the unconditional donation was offered to the people, some anti-development groups cried bribery. Yet when the facts and truth were known, the people's will prevailed because they knew a new school building for their children was badly needed in the community," Martinez said.

Offered

Leaders of Higaonon natives here disclosed that they were being offered at least P1 million in exchange for their support of the mining project of at least eight multinational companies in the fishing village of Macambol.

Datu Manaon Victor Aying said he and the tribal leaders of Higaonon natives turned down the offer.

"We told the mining firms that we will never accept that P1 milllion bribe money. What is at stake here are the lives of indigenous people. If we will allow the mining project inside our ancestral land, it is tantamount to killing our tribe," Aying told the INQUIRER.

'Kill us all first'

"Kill us all first, only then will you get our ancestral lands. We will never allow mining activities here because everybody knows it is destructive, it kills the ecology, it kills our only source of living," Aying added.

Fr. Medardo Salomia, leader of the Interfaith Movement for Peace Empowerment and Development (Impede), said a "huge amount of bribe money" from mining firms was also being dangled to him.

Impede has called on the people here to oppose the mining project citing the massive ecological destruction wrought by mining disasters in the country. ***Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Historic Baguio City site ignored

By Weehlene Joy Caraan, Janelle Jamias and Pearl Urtola
Baguio City

UNKNOWN to many, the site where an ordinary looking building on Gov. Pack Road in Baguio City now stands, played a very important role in shaping the country's history.

But only a simple concrete marker now stands in front of the building, now the Baden Powell Inn, to remind residents and visitors that the first session of the Philippine Commission in 1904 was held in Baguio.

The marker may not be neglected but it fails to tell the real significance of the event that made the city the official "summer capital of the archipelago."

A hundred years ago, members of the Philippine Commission gathered in Baguio from April 22 to June 11, 1904, to discuss the future of Baguio. The commission was composed of Governor General Luke Edward Wright, president; and Henry Ide, Dean Worcester, T. H. Pardo de Tavera, Benito Legarda, Jose R. de Luzuriaga, James F. Smith and W. Cameron Forbes, members.

The commission also enacted major development projects, such as the construction of the Baguio Sanitarium, the first hospital, and other buildings; transportation and water supply facilities; and the design of the emerging city.

The commission formed another committee that took charge of developing Benguet, building the Benguet Road (now known as the Kennon Road) and another road from nearby Naguilian town in La Union.

It approved 74 acts and 272 resolutions, one of which created the Philippine Senate to be led by Manuel L. Quezon, who would later become the first president of the Philippine Commonwealth from 1935 to 1944.

Because of the commission's historic first session, the city's most famous road, Session Road, in the central business district got its name.

Camilo Neverida, regional scout director of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, said the building where the first session was held, was later acquired by the BSP and rented out to students and transients.

Neverida said the BSP decided to lease out the building to the Gupit family when it showed "signs of dilapidation." The family developed the building into the Baden Powell Inn in the 1980s.

Peter Gawe, senior tourism operations officer of the Department of Tourism in the Cordillera, said the session marker is five meters from its original site.

The marker, which used to be enclosed by iron grills, was moved because commercial stalls started to crowd the area and made it unnoticeable, he said.

As building owner, the BSP questioned why the marker was moved. However, the inn's developer presented to the court a clearance from the National Historical Commission that authorized the transfer.

Neverida said the contract between the BSP and the owners of the inn would end in 2009.

Dina Marie Delias, a political science instructor at the University of the Philippines Baguio, said that while the city gained a lot from the holding of the Philippine Commission's first session, efforts to preserve historical sites to remind people of its significance had been minimal.

WELCOME
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COMMISSION

THE MARKER for the site of the first session of the Philippine Commission along Gov. Pack Road in Baguio City EV ESPIRITU

Book cites role of Japanese pioneers

THREE hundred sixty pages and heavily illustrated, "Japanese Pioneers in the Northern Philippine Highlands" will be launched at 3 p.m. on May 4 at the University of the Philippines Baguio.

The volume is primarily based on oral accounts from Japanese descendants in the Cordillera and focuses on their ancestors' life stories and their contributions to Northern Luzon economy and society.

In the early years of the 20th century, American government installations in the Philippines were important work sites for Japanese migrant laborers. In Luzon, the most ambitious of these projects resulted in the creation of Baguio and its development into the country's most famous vacation resort.

The building of a highway (the Benguet Road, later called the Kennon Road) to connect this proposed urban center to the Manila railroad employed over a thousand Japanese men. Upon completion of the road in 1905, some workers went to live in the Baguio-Benguet region.

The Japanese pioneers joined the Filipinos, Americans and Chinese who flocked to this highland zone in the early 1900s in search of gold, commerce or wage work.

With them, they built Baguio's foundations for a northern economic and tourist capital. Among the Japanese were numerous skilled carpenters, masons and gardeners, as well as merchants and building contractors.

With more arrivals from Japan during the first two decades, they ran the sawmills and constructed the first Western-style residences and government buildings in Baguio. Some opened provision shops and general stores in the city center, while others started vegetable farms. They founded a Japanese association, established a school, and organized farming cooperatives.

In the 1920s and 1930s, Japanese retail businesses, as well as agricultural, construction and trucking enterprises, flourished.

The book describes a vibrant Japanese community that was fully engaged in economic cultural and civic life in the region in the first decades of the 20th century.

Because of the great toll on Filipino life and society in the Second World War, most of the stories came to be shared only within small groups of Japanese-Filipinos. Few of their elders, the pioneers' children, now remain.

Erlyn Alcantara

"JAPANESE Pioneers in the Northern Philippine Highlands: A Centennial Tribute (1903-2003)," edited by Patricia O. Afable and published by the Filipino-Japanese Foundation of Northern Luzon Inc., is available at the FJFNLI, # 3 Bukaneg St., Baguio City, tel. 63-74-442-4708, fax 63-74-443-8493.

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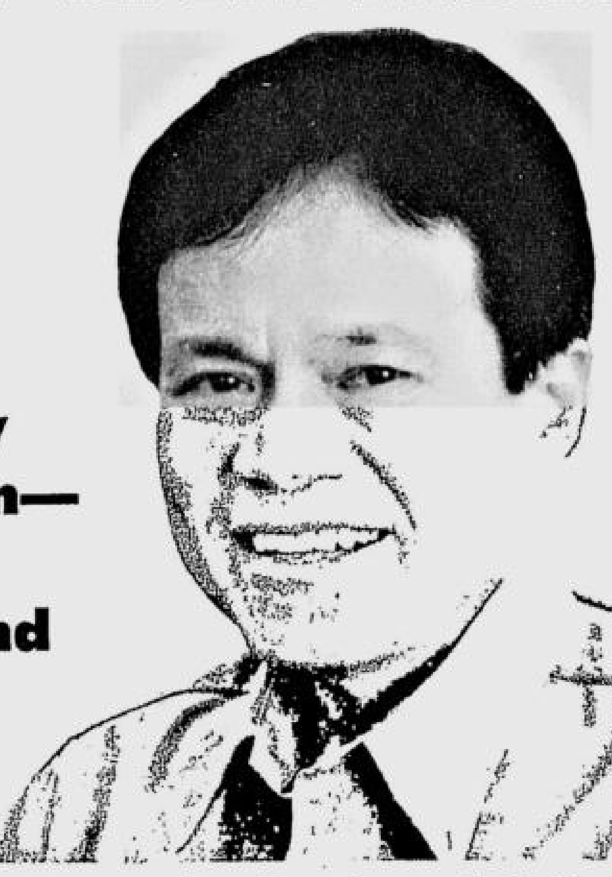

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42 or 43-M voters? Poll officials can't agree

From page A1

The Comelec on Sunday started to seal the Book of Voters, which contains voters' registration records.

This means that there will be no more exclusion or inclusion of voters and only clerical errors would be amended.

Recipe for chaos

Criticisms from various sectors about the Comelec's voters' list have mounted, suggesting the registry could be a recipe for chaos.

Complaints ranged from voters not being able to find their names on the list, to disenfranchisement and padding.

Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, wife of Pasig City congressional candidate Robert "Dodot" Jaworski of Lakas, said that in some places in Pasig, families had an unbelievable average of 15 registered voters each.

Far more incredible, Dodot Jaworksi told the INQUIRER, was the information he received that 130 voters lived in one shanty in Pasig, based on their addresses on the voters' list.

This would explain the huge increase in the number of voters in Pasig, Lakas officials said.

Opposition senatorial candidate Francisco Tatad of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino accused Malacañang of being behind a supposedly large-scale operation to ensure that supporters of presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. would not be able to vote for him.

'Operation Tinta'

The plan calls for voters identified as being pro-Poe to be "invited, pressured or abducted" and their fingers smudged with indelible ink a day before the polls, Tatad told reporters.

These voters would then not be able to vote and, in some cases, "some other people would be voting in their place," according to Tatad.

He said Malacañang's dirty tricks department was targeting three million voters for this "P1.5-billion" scheme, which Tatad stressed was just "one mode of cheating" being planned by the administration.

He claimed he was informed that First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo was behind this plan dubbed "Operation Tinta."

Other opposition members claimed voters' lists were padded in Laguna.

The Palace appeared unruffled by the allegations, saying President Macapagal-Arroyo wanted to make the elections absolutely credible.

Elections in the country have traditionally been marred by cheating and violence.

GMA wish: Cleanest ever

Deputy presidential spokesperson Ricardo Saludo said the administration had spared no effort in fulfilling the President's wish to make these elections "not only clean, but the cleanest ever."

Ms Macapagal, in a statement, called on all local candidates to share the burden of ensuring that the elections in their areas were peaceful and orderly "even in the heat of the campaign."

"Power bred by violence does not make a strong democratic system that will bring us the political and economic stability to create jobs, expand education or deliver on the health needs of our people," she said.

Sharing resources

Realizing they're no match for the administration's machinery, opposition candidates have started talks on sharing resources to prevent poll fraud and, hopefully, to field a common candidate to defeat the President.

The talks among representatives of Poe, Raul Roco, Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson and Eddie Villanueva began Friday last week, Roco's senatorial candidate Jay Sonza said yesterday.

The talks initially focused on the common agenda of sharing manpower and equipment to guard against cheating, he said.

"We have a common enemy now [GMA] ... From a practical standpoint, if that cheating machinery is in place, there's no way for the opposition to win," Sonza told reporters.

He said the talks were expected to move to a more serious issue—fielding one candidate and sharing power after the opposition wins.

"It's withdrawal and endorsement, anchored on power-sharing," he said.

Roco is expected to meet with Poe, Lacson and Villanueva after he arrives today from the United States, Sonza said.

Complaints

Among those who complained against the voters' list was Manila congressional aspirant, former Rep. Sandy Ocampo, who said her name was not included in the list of candidates being distributed by the Comelec.

"They have disenfranchised me," Ocampo said.

Abalos called some of the complaints "illogical," saying allegations of padding of the voters' list occurred in areas dominated by the opposition.

"How can I use this (padded voters' list) if this is a controlled territory of the opposition?" he said. "If there are questions about this, they should call us. For all we know, these might just be questions of overlapping, misprints or whatever."

In the Pasig case, Abalos blamed the political parties for the increase in the number of voters.

He pointed out that he had talked to politicians several months back and told them about the "alarming increase" in voters.

"I told them to work hand-in-hand to clean the list," he said, adding that the parties should have checked the list and filed exclusion or inclusion cases to clean up the registry.

"If there was no challenge before the election board and they did not call for exclusion proceedings, what can we do? I cannot be more popish than the Pope ... Apparently, they want us to do all the work," the Comelec chair said.

Asked how the problems could be corrected, Abalos said that the only remedy would be to challenge the questioned voters when they appear in the precincts on the election day itself.

"The only remedy is maybe you can probably challenge them on the day of election or confront them if they are not residents of the area ... Somehow it might frighten them. Might," he said.

A Comelec official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Certified Voters' List (CVL) was supposed to be centralized based on the old list and on new registrants whose data were generated by computers during the P1.2-billion validation process handled by Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco.

The election officials were supposed to submit the list of previous voters and those who did not validate their registration but the Comelec failed to merge the two lists.

The Comelec had to return the lists to the election officials on Jan. 23 to manually encode the voters' data.

This, the official said, resulted in some cases of double entry. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr., TJ Burgonio, Christine Avendaño, Cynthia Balana, Luige del Puerto*

Western, Eastern Visayas: Sugar bloc loses sweet touch in politics

From page A1

DANDING COJUANGCO controls Negros Occidental.

BEJO ROMUALDEZ'S sons have given up politics.

EXEQUIEL JAVIER, younger brother of the martyred Evelio.

families as the Yulos, Aranetas, Lopezes, Jalandonis, Lacsons and Ybiernases became further weakened when the industry was hit by the depression of world sugar prices in the early 1980s. Another factor was the redistribution of some of the families' large landholdings under the government's land reform program.

Some of the politician members of the hacendero families, like former Iloilo Congressman Albertito Lopez and his wife Emily, the former governor of Guimaras, have opted not to seek elective office, deciding instead to support other candidates, thereby maintaining a measure of political clout.

This is also the preferred mode of operation of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco who, since his return from exile in 1991, has extended his political base in Tarlac in Central Luzon to Negros Occidental.

Cojuangco, who built the Nationalist People's Coalition as the engine for his failed presidential bid in 1992, has reportedly won control of all but one of Negros Occidental's congressional districts largely by bankrolling the candidacies of local candidates.

In the Eastern Visayas, the once all-powerful Romualdez family has dissipated and are no longer the political overlords of the region that they dominated during the heyday of the Marcos dictatorship. Only one Romualdez is running in this year's election, the ailing Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez, who is a brother of Imelda Romualdez Marcos. The reason is partly because the clan has not produced any capable political heirs. Alfredo's two sons, Alfred and Carlos, have given up politics, preferring to run businesses in Manila.

Western Visayas: Iloilo

In Iloilo, two powerful families are battling for the governorship. Gov. Neil Tupas Sr. (Ugyon-Liberal Party) from the town of Barotac Viejo in the north is seeking reelection. He is being opposed by Rep. Oscar Garin (Lakas) of the province's south who is on his last term as congressman of the first district.

Tupas is a former mayor of Barotac Viejo and was also a Batasang Pambansa assemblyman. Before he was elected governor, he served three terms as congressman of Iloilo's fifth district.

His wife, Myrna, also served as mayor of Barotac Viejo. The post is now occupied by their son, Raul. Another son, Niel Jr., is running for congressman of the fifth district.

Garin having served out three congressional terms in the first district, the post is being passed on to his daughter-in-law Janet, one of two incumbent provincial board members in the district.

Garin's wife, Ninfa, is running in the tightly contested mayoralty race of San Joaquin town and faces incumbent Mayor Daisy Sibya. Ninfa also served for 18 years as mayor of Guimbal, the Garins' hometown base.

Garin's son, Oscar Jr., is seeking reelection as Guimbal mayor. He passed on his provincial board member seat to his wife Janet.

Antique

In Antique province, the same political clans that have dominated the politics of the province for several decades now are again facing off in this year's elections.

Antique Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez (LP), is seeking reelection. She is the daughter of the late former assemblyman and Supreme Court Justice Calixto Zaldivar. Salvacion's older brother, Enrique, was the province's former governor and was also the country's ambassador to Brunei at one time.

Enrique's son, Calixto III, is running for a seat in the provincial board.

Also seeking reelection is Rep. Exequiel Javier (Lakas), the younger brother of Evelio Javier, the governor who was assassinated during the 1986 "snap" elections. Exequiel was also once governor of the province.

Former Congressman and Gov. Jovito Palmeras (NPC) is contesting Javier's congressional seat.

Former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador, the province's political kingpin throughout the Marcos years, is seeking to make a comeback. Pacificador, who is in jail on murder charges for the killing of Evelio Javier, is running for vice governor from his prison cell.

Pacificador was public works deputy secretary in the Marcos administration. His deceased elder brother, Julian, served as governor of the province and mayor of the capital town of San Jose.

Pacificador's nephew, Julius, is the mayor of Hamtic town.

Aklan

In the Aklan town of Banga, the Fuentes family is busy building a political dynasty of its own.

Mayor Stevens Fuentes was first elected town mayor in 1995. He was reelected in 1998 and again in the 2001 polls. Barred from seeking a fourth term, he is now running for a provincial board seat.

His brother, lawyer Jeremy N. Fuentes, aims to succeed him as mayor.

In Balete town, reelectionist Mayor Teodoro V. Calizo is running unopposed. Also running for reelection is his sister Aklan Rep. Gabrielle Calizo. Their uncle, Dr. Eriberto Venus, a former mayor of New Washington town, is seeking membership to the provincial board of Aklan.

Of the other political clan in Balete town, the Rodriguezes, Rizal G. Rodriguez is a candidate for vice mayor. His brother, Potenciano, the former mayor, and sister, Jean, the incumbent vice governor, are seeking municipal council seats.

A lawyer couple, Amadeo Zaldivar and Maria Carillo Zaldivar, have been alternating as mayor of Nabas town.

Amadeo is the incumbent vice mayor and is seeking reelection. He ran for vice mayor after serving three consecutive terms as Nabas mayor in 1998.

Maria is a retired trial court judge. She is now running for a seat in the town council.

Their grandson is the barangay chair of Nabas. Their nephew, Stephen Bolivar, is a reelectionist councilor.

In the town of Malinao, Rosie Iguban is seeking reelection as vice mayor. After serving as mayor for three consecutive terms, she was elected vice mayor in 2001. Her husband, Dr. Jose Quirubin R. Iguban, is a candidate for the municipal council.

Their son-in-law Erwin Equina is running for reelection as municipal council member.

Negros Occidental

Two families, the Marañons in the north and the Alvarezes in the south, have carved out political spheres of influence in the province.

But businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco is known to be the political power in Negros Occidental. He is said to have acquired 5,000 hectares of agricultural land in the province. To get around the land reform law, Cojuangco managed to get the Estrada administration to approve a corporative joint venture scheme to prevent his landholdings from being broken up and redistributed.

Of the candidates fielded by Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition in the 2001 elections, the NPC's bet for governor, Joseph Marañon, and vice governor, Isidro Zayco, won. The NPC also won five of seven congressional seats, and 26 mayors in the 32 towns and cities of Negros Occidental.

Fifth district reelectionist Rep. Apolinario Lozada, another new-generation Negros politician without ties to the sugar bloc, is the only congressman from the province who is not allied with Cojuangco.

A Lakas-CMD member, Lozada is running as an independent. The ruling coalition candidate for the district is Ignacio Arroyo, the brother of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo. But President Macapagal-Arroyo has said that she is supporting Lozada.

Cojuangco's son, Carlos, is a re-electionist congressman of the fourth district in central Negros Occidental.

Alfredo Marañon III, who is chief of staff of his father, Rep. Alfredo Marañon, is running unopposed under the NPC for the second congressional seat being vacated by his father.

The second district includes the cities of Sagay and Cadiz and Manapla town in the north.

His uncle, Joseph Marañon, is running for reelection as governor of Negros Occidental.

Provincial board member Genaro Rafael Alvarez III is running unopposed under the NPC for the sixth congressional seat being vacated by his father, Genaro Alvarez. The sixth district covers the cities of Kabankalan and Sipalay and the towns of Cauayan, Candoni, Ilog and Hinobaan.

His brother Paul Alvarez is running for reelection as mayor of Ilog, also under the NPC.

Eastern Visayas

Leyte no longer being Romualdez country, political dominance of the province is being contested by several political clans, the strongest of which is the Loreto-Petilla family, a subgroup of the large Veloso clan based in Baybay in the west which also includes the Loreto-Caris of Baybay and the Locsin-Larrazabals of Ormoc City.

The Loreto-Petillas are being challenged for primacy by the emerging political dynasty of Sergio Apostol, a veteran politician whose base is the second district in the north.

The battle between the two political families has cultural overtones as the Veloso clan, whose base is the Cebuano-speaking west of the province, now virtually controls all of Leyte, including the Waray-speaking north and northeast.

From the first gubernatorial elections in 1906, Leyte has always been ruled from the capitol in Tacloban City by northern political families. However, after the ouster of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos and the resulting eclipse of the Romualdezes, whose base is in Tolosa town in the first district, power gradually shifted to clans from the *contra costa* (the opposite, or west coast).

Veloso clan members now control the governorship and all the congressional districts of Leyte, with the exception of the first and the second districts, and the old sub-province and now province of Biliran.

Leyte and Samar

In the first elections after the Edsa Revolution in 1988, Adelina Yrastorza-Larrazabal of Ormoc City won the governorship. The opponent she defeated was Leopoldo Petilla, of Palo town in the north, who is the husband of the present governor, Remedios Loreto-Petilla.

Petilla won a disqualification case against Larrazabal who was unseated after serving for only two years. The Commission on Elections gave credence to Petilla's charge that Larrazabal's claim that she was from Kananga town was false. Ormoc is a chartered city outside the provincial government's jurisdiction. In the 1992 elections, Petilla won the governorship.

In 1995, Petilla's wife ran and won as governor. Prohibited by law from seeking another term, Gov. Remedios Loreto-Petilla is now running for the congressional seat of the province's first district.

She personally picked her son Jericho as her replacement at the capitol. The young Jericho is a political neophyte compared to his opponent Apostol, who is the Lakas-CMD gubernatorial standard-bearer.

Though the governor is the provincial chair of the Lakas-CMD, her son is running under the Nationalist People's Coalition. Apostol, an influential member of the ruling coalition, is the Lakas-CMD regional chair.

Apostol resigned the chairmanship of the Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. to make his political comeback.

Apostol served for three consecutive terms as congressman of the second district before giving way to his wife, Trinidad, in 2001. Trinidad was the vice governor when she ran and won the 2001 congressional race. She is being opposed by Vice Gov. Nestor Villasin, who is allied with the younger Petilla. Villasin and Apostol are cousins.

Apostol, whose uncle, Segundo, was a member of the Philippine Assembly of 1919, is fielding his daughter, Anlie, as candidate for mayor of Carigara, the old provincial capital and an important town in the second district.

In Ormoc City, the reelection bid of Rep. Eufrocino Codilla is being challenged by Mitch Locsin, a son of Ormoc City Mayor Carmelo Locsin and former representative Victoria Larrazabal Locsin.

Eric Codilla, a son of the congressman, is opposing the reelection bid of Mayor Locsin. The Codillas are running under the Lakas-CMD while the Locsins are affiliated with the NPC.

In Leyte's fifth district, reelectionist Rep. Carmen Loreto-Cari of Lakas-CMD is running against her own brother, former Rep. Eriberto V. Loreto of Lakas.

Loreto-Cari's son, Baybay Mayor Carlos Cari, is being challenged by his cousin Rep. Catalina Loreto Go, the daughter of Eriberto, for the mayoral seat of the district's biggest town.

Eriberto and Carmen are siblings of Governor Petilla.

The reelection bid of Rep. Eduardo Veloso of Leyte's third district is being opposed by yet another cousin.

The family of three-termer Rep. Gerardo Espina Sr. of the NPC has a stranglehold on the politics of the island-province of Biliran, formerly a sub-province of Leyte. Espina Sr. is running for mayor of the capital town of Naval. His son Gerardo Jr., the incumbent mayor of Naval, is seeking the lone congressional seat. Another son, Rogelio, is seeking reelection as Biliran governor.

In Southern Leyte, reelectionist Rep. Aniceto Saludo of the opposition Partido ng Masang Pilipino has fielded his daughter Ma. Salvacion Saludo to run for governor. She is pitted against re-electionist Gov. Rosette Y. Lerias of the Lakas-NPC. Lerias is a daughter of former Southern Leyte Gov. Salvacion Yñiguez and former Assemblyman Nicanor Yñiguez.

Saludo is being challenged by Roger Mercado, a former congressman whom Saludo defeated in 1998. Roger is a brother of Maasin City Mayor Damian Mercado.

In Northern Samar, reelectionist Gov. Raul Daza of the Liberal Party is fielding his son Paul as one of the party's candidates for board member in the province's second district. *With reports from Nestor Burgos, Vicente Labro, Carla P. Gomez and Recto I. Vidal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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42 or 43-M voters? Poll officials can't agree

From page A1

The Comelec on Sunday started to seal the Book of Voters, which contains voters' registration records.

This means that there will be no more exclusion or inclusion of voters and only clerical errors would be amended.

Recipe for chaos

Criticisms from various sectors about the Comelec's voters' list have mounted, suggesting the registry could be a recipe for chaos.

Complaints ranged from voters not being able to find their names on the list, to disenfranchisement and padding.

Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, wife of Pasig City congressional candidate Robert "Dodot" Jaworski of Lakas, said that in some places in Pasig, families had an unbelievable average of 15 registered voters each.

Far more incredible, Dodot Jaworksi told the INQUIRER, was the information he received that 130 voters lived in one shanty in Pasig, based on their addresses on the voters' list.

This would explain the huge increase in the number of voters in Pasig, Lakas officials said.

Opposition senatorial candidate Francisco Tatad of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino accused Malacañang of being behind a supposedly large-scale operation to ensure that supporters of presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. would not be able to vote for him.

'Operation Tinta'

The plan calls for voters identified as being pro-Poe to be "invited, pressured or abducted" and their fingers smudged with indelible ink a day before the polls, Tatad told reporters.

These voters would then not be able to vote and, in some cases, "some other people would be voting in their place," according to Tatad.

He said Malacañang's dirty tricks department was targeting three million voters for this "P1.5-billion" scheme, which Tatad stressed was just "one mode of cheating" being planned by the administration.

He claimed he was informed that First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo was behind this plan dubbed "Operation Tinta."

Other opposition members claimed voters' lists were padded in Laguna.

The Palace appeared unruffled by the allegations, saying President Macapagal-Arroyo wanted to make the elections absolutely credible.

Elections in the country have traditionally been marred by cheating and violence.

GMA wish: Cleanest ever

Deputy presidential spokesperson Ricardo Saludo said the administration had spared no effort in fulfilling the President's wish to make these elections "not only clean, but the cleanest ever."

Ms Macapagal, in a statement, called on all local candidates to share the burden of ensuring that the elections in their areas were peaceful and orderly "even in the heat of the campaign."

"Power bred by violence does not make a strong democratic system that will bring us the political and economic stability to create jobs, expand education or deliver on the health needs of our people," she said.

Sharing resources

Realizing they're no match for the administration's machinery, opposition candidates have started talks on sharing resources to prevent poll fraud and, hopefully, to field a common candidate to defeat the President.

The talks among representatives of Poe, Raul Roco, Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson and Eddie Villanueva began Friday last week, Roco's senatorial candidate Jay Sonza said yesterday.

The talks initially focused on the common agenda of sharing manpower and equipment to guard against cheating, he said.

"We have a common enemy now [GMA] ... From a practical standpoint, if that cheating machinery is in place, there's no way for the opposition to win," Sonza told reporters.

He said the talks were expected to move to a more serious issue—fielding one candidate and sharing power after the opposition wins.

"It's withdrawal and endorsement, anchored on power-sharing," he said.

Roco is expected to meet with Poe, Lacson and Villanueva after he arrives today from the United States, Sonza said.

Complaints

Among those who complained against the voters' list was Manila congressional aspirant, former Rep. Sandy Ocampo, who said her name was not included in the list of candidates being distributed by the Comelec.

"They have disenfranchised me," Ocampo said.

Abalos called some of the complaints "illogical," saying allegations of padding of the voters' list occurred in areas dominated by the opposition.

"How can I use this (padded voters' list) if this is a controlled territory of the opposition?" he said. "If there are questions about this, they should call us. For all we know, these might just be questions of overlapping, misprints or whatever."

In the Pasig case, Abalos blamed the political parties for the increase in the number of voters.

He pointed out that he had talked to politicians several months back and told them about the "alarming increase" in voters.

"I told them to work hand-in-hand to clean the list," he said, adding that the parties should have checked the list and filed exclusion or inclusion cases to clean up the registry.

"If there was no challenge before the election board and they did not call for exclusion proceedings, what can we do? I cannot be more popish than the Pope ... Apparently, they want us to do all the work," the Comelec chair said.

Asked how the problems could be corrected, Abalos said that the only remedy would be to challenge the questioned voters when they appear in the precincts on the election day itself.

"The only remedy is maybe you can probably challenge them on the day of election or confront them if they are not residents of the area ... Somehow it might frighten them. Might," he said.

A Comelec official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Certified Voters' List (CVL) was supposed to be centralized based on the old list and on new registrants whose data were generated by computers during the P1.2-billion validation process handled by Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco.

The election officials were supposed to submit the list of previous voters and those who did not validate their registration but the Comelec failed to merge the two lists.

The Comelec had to return the lists to the election officials on Jan. 23 to manually encode the voters' data.

This, the official said, resulted in some cases of double entry. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr., TJ Burgonio, Christine Avendaño, Cynthia Balana, Luige del Puerto*

Western, Eastern Visayas: Sugar bloc loses sweet touch in politics

From page A1

DANDING COJUANGCO controls Negros Occidental.

BEJO ROMUALDEZ'S sons have given up politics.

EXEQUIEL JAVIER, younger brother of the martyred Evelio.

families as the Yulos, Araneras, Lopezes, Jalandonis, Lacsons and Ybiernases became further weakened when the industry was hit by the depression of world sugar prices in the early 1980s. Another factor was the redistribution of some of the families' large landholdings under the government's land reform program.

Some of the politician members of the hacendero families, like former Iloilo Congressman Albertito Lopez and his wife Emily, the former governor of Guimaras, have opted not to seek elective office, deciding instead to support other candidates, thereby maintaining a measure of political clout.

This is also the preferred mode of operation of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco who, since his return from exile in 1991, has extended his political base in Tarlac in Central Luzon to Negros Occidental.

Cojuangco, who built the Nationalist People's Coalition as the engine for his failed presidential bid in 1992, has reportedly won control of all but one of Negros Occidental's congressional districts largely by bankrolling the candidacies of local candidates.

In the Eastern Visayas, the once all-powerful Romualdez family has dissipated and are no longer the political overlords of the region that they dominated during the heyday of the Marcos dictatorship. Only one Romualdez is running in this year's election, the ailing Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez, who is a brother of Imelda Romualdez Marcos. The reason is partly because the clan has not produced any capable political heirs. Alfredo's two sons, Alfred and Carlos, have given up politics, preferring to run businesses in Manila.

Western Visayas: Iloilo

In Iloilo, two powerful families are battling for the governorship. Gov. Neil Tupas Sr. (Ugyon-Liberal Party) from the town of Barotac Viejo in the north is seeking reelection. He is being opposed by Rep. Oscar Garin (Lakas) of the province's south who is on his last term as congressman of the first district.

Tupas is a former mayor of Barotac Viejo and was also a Batasang Pambansa assemblyman. Before he was elected governor, he served three terms as congressman of Iloilo's fifth district.

His wife, Myrna, also served as mayor of Barotac Viejo. The post is now occupied by their son, Raul. Another son, Niel Jr., is running for congressman of the fifth district.

Garin having served out three congressional terms in the first district, the post is being passed on to his daughter-in-law Janet, one of two incumbent provincial board members in the district.

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Enrique's son, Calixto III, is running for a seat in the provincial board.

Also seeking reelection is Rep. Exequiel Javier (Lakas), the younger brother of Evelio Javier, the governor who was assassinated during the 1986 "snap" elections. Exequiel was also once governor of the province.

Former Congressman and Gov. Jovito Palmeras (NPC) is contesting Javier's congressional seat.

Former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador, the province's political kingpin throughout the Marcos years, is seeking to make a comeback. Pacificador, who is in jail on murder charges for the killing of Evelio Javier, is running for vice governor from his prison cell.

Pacificador was public works deputy secretary in the Marcos administration. His deceased elder brother, Julian, served as governor of the province and mayor of the capital town of San Jose.

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Aklan

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His brother, lawyer Jeremy N. Fuentes, aims to succeed him as mayor.

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Their grandson is the barangay chair of Nabas. Their nephew, Stephen Bolivar, is a reelectionist councilor.

In the town of Malinao, Rosie Iguban is seeking reelection as vice mayor. After serving as mayor for three consecutive terms, she was elected vice mayor in 2001. Her husband, Dr. Jose Quirubin R. Iguban, is a candidate for the municipal council.

Their son-in-law Erwin Equina is running for reelection as municipal council member.

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Leyte and Samar

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Loreto-Cari's son, Baybay Mayor Carlos Cari, is being challenged by his cousin Rep. Catalina Loreto Go, the daughter of Eriberto, for the mayoral seat of the district's biggest town.

Eriberto and Carmen are siblings Governor Petilla.

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Saludo is being challenged by Roger Mercado, a former congressman whom Saludo defeated in 1998. Roger is brother of Maasin City Mayor Da Mercado.

In Northern Samar, reelectionist Gov. Raul Daza of the Liberal Party fielded his son Paul as one of the party's candidates for board member in the province's second district. *With reports from Nestor Burgos, Vicente Labro, Carla P. Gomez and Recto I. Vidal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Cancer talk hounds Roco as he arrives today

From page A1

like a warrior come home from battle.

The route of the motorcade—from the airport to the Maria de la Strada Church in Quezon City where a thanksgiving Mass will be held—will be festooned with red, yellow and blue ribbons, as well as flowers.

"We will give him a rousing welcome," said Aquino.

Elsewhere, Roco supporters in Iloilo City also plan to hold a motorcade that will culminate in a thanksgiving Mass.

"The show of force is simply to show Mr. Roco that there are people who care, who are willing to fight till the end, win or lose, and of course to show the people that he is not alone in this fight," Aquino told reporters.

In a conversation from Hong Kong with his party mates, Roco indicated that he had been given a clean bill of health by his doctors.

"He's fit to run," Aquino said, adding that Roco himself will disclose upon arrival his doctors' report on his condition.

Emotional boost

"Roco's voice was upbeat … I can only presume that he's active, healthy, until he says otherwise tomorrow, or he will go against the advice of his doctors and continue the fight," Sonza said.

Roco's departure for the United States on April 13 to seek treatment for chronic back pains triggered speculations that the prostate cancer had come back.

In his camp, hope runs high that Roco could still arrest his skidding poll ratings once he gets back on the campaign trail.

"His return will give the campaign an emotional boost, an emotional appeal," Aquino said. "It's possible that the undecided, soft voters will rally behind our candidate once he's back."

"He's like a captain returning to our ship, and it inspires you more," added Sonza.

Sympathy votes?

Roco's camp is also hoping his return would generate a surge of sympathy votes for him and his party.

Since leaving for the United States, Roco has slid from third to fourth place in poll surveys, behind President Macapagal-Arroyo, actor Fernando Poe Jr. and Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson.

Much of Alyansa's campaign in the remaining 13 days before the elections will be waged on radio in the form of ads and interviews, according to Sonza.

"The idea is to concentrate on the media," he said.

Persistent talk that he is afflicted with cancer have adversely affected Roco's chances of winning in the May 10 polls, Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada said.

"It's unfortunate because Roco was a very strong presidential contender," Lozada said.

Doubts persist

He said that no amount of denials from Roco, his doctors or his Alyansa camp that he had prostate cancer could erase the people's doubts about his health.

Lozada said Roco's plunge in the latest survey ratings showed how people regard candidates believed to be in poor health.

"Ailing politicians are aware they face defeat if the public knows of their affliction," said Lozada. "That is why they never admit they are sick even if they are already dying."

Lozada added: "People are convinced of Roco's mental prowess but sadly … the same could not be said of his physical capability.

"No one in his right mind would vote for a possibly cancer-stricken presidential candidate."

Toss-up

Lozada also said the opposition would benefit most from Roco's predicament.

He said Roco's supporters, who are looking for an alternative candidate, would likely switch their votes to another opposition candidate and not to the administration.

"It's now a toss-up between FPJ and Senator Lacson," Lozada said.

Malacañang welcomed the news that Roco was coming home but shrugged off reports that his return would hasten the unification of the fragmented opposition.

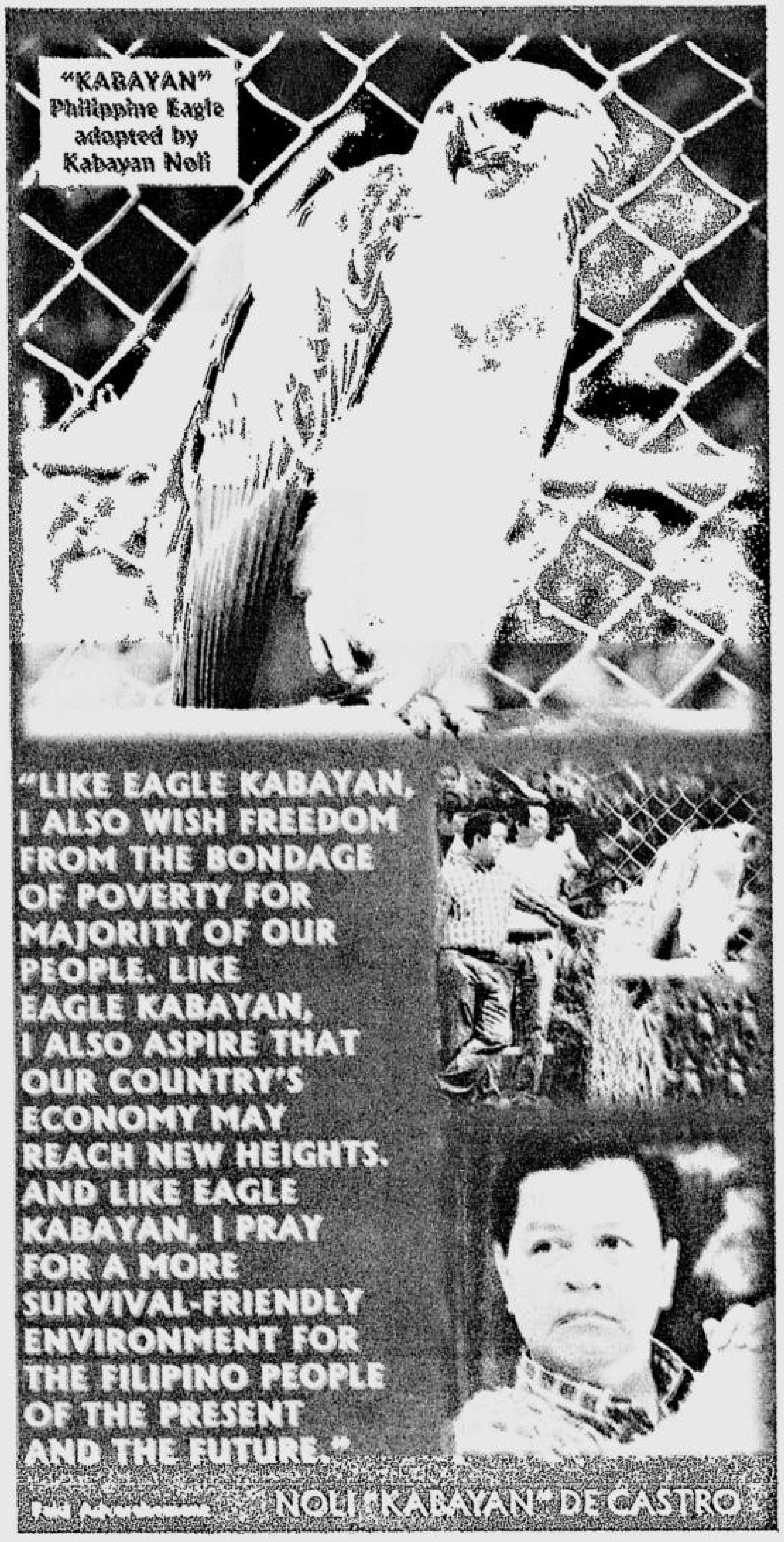
"I am glad that Raul Roco is coming home and is faring well. I welcome him back to the campaign and wish him the best," Ms Macapagal said.

"This election has ample space for those who like him have waged an issues-oriented campaign."

Not bothered

Deputy presidential spokesperson Ricardo Saludo said Malacañang was not bothered by reported unification talks between Roco and preacher Eddie Villanueva, another presidential contender.

"The President has said that it is good if the opposition unites so that talks about these mergers will be over and attention would be focused on platforms and programs," he said. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana*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NOLI "KABAYAN" DE CASTRO

Poe, Lacson: Are they or aren't they finally talking unity?

From page A1

But all Poe would say after the 9 p.m. meeting that lasted for 40 minutes was that the two bets had agreed to join forces to guard against fraud in the coming polls. An Inquirer source said Poe and Lacson would continue with their respective campaigns.

Asked by reporters at a Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino rally in Pandacan, Manila, after the meeting if he and Lacson had agreed on unification and who would withdraw from the race, Poe said: "Hopefully, *dadating tayo dyan* (we shall get there). For now we are one in protecting the ballot."

Poe and Lacson had missed numerous chances to meet recently in what opposition forces had hoped would be the unification of the opposition in order to beat President Macapagal-Arroyo on May 10. The President has continued to pull away in recent election surveys.

Earlier schedule

Both Poe and Lacson were scheduled to fly to Zamboanga City today, fueling speculation the two opposition presidential aspirants would meet there for unity talks.

"If he'll also be in Zamboanga City (on Wednesday), we could probably meet there," said Lacson, who called off a campaign sortie to the city yesterday.

Their respective advance teams and the media groups covering both candidates were already billeted at the same hotel—the Orchid Gardens.

A source close to Lacson told the INQUIRER that the senator remained in Metro Manila yesterday as the opposition continued its efforts to bring him and the actor together for the long-delayed talks for the fielding of a single opposition candidate against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lacson's lone senatorial candidate, Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla, told the INQUIRER that Lacson and Poe may have already met yesterday.

"They must have already met. How else can one explain the cancellation of our sortie," Padilla said, although he admitted he could not be sure.

Inaccessible

Unlike last week when Lacson had a teleconference from his Parañaque residence with reporters who went to General Santos City to cover his scheduled campaign sortie, the senator yesterday made himself inaccessible to the media.

Poe and Lacson were supposed to meet on April 19 and 26. They last met on Easter Sunday but did not reach an agreement.

Poe told reporters in a chance interview Monday night in Taguig, Metro Manila, that there was no new schedule for his meeting with Lacson.

Lacson had a similar message. "I don't know when we'll talk. I haven't received any advice from him on where and what time we will meet," he said on Radio Mindanao Network yesterday. "I don't know if there is still any hope of us talking, though there are still 15 more days to go before Election Day."

Asked if he would bow out of the presidential race to give way to Lacson, Poe said: "That won't happen."

Ernesto Herrera, who is running for a Senate seat under the Poe-led Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, said that the unity talks would be an "obstacle" to the KNP campaign.

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SIX DIGIT (In exact order)
2 8 7 4 1 0

6/42 Luzon
1 7 21 29 38 40

Vis-Min
2 11 13 20 21 28

Joyride nearly turns tragic for 2 teeners

TWO GIRLS and a soldier were wounded in a shooting incident in Sitio Wawa, San Rafael, Rodriguez, Rizal, at dawn yesterday.

The two girls, aged 14 and 15, another girl aged 10 and a male companion identified as Delfin Afiado, 18, were in a Mitsubishi Adventure at about 2 a.m. when they came upon a checkpoint of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force.

Instead of continuing, Afiado, who was at the wheel, stopped and tried to make a quick reverse. It was later reported that he panicked because he did not have a driver's license.

This reportedly prompted the soldiers to fire warning shots.

Lt. Col. Ricardo Nepomuceno, Army area commander, said Pfc. Rene Dupiles tried to check the vehicle but was met by gunfire, hitting Dupiles in the left arm.

Soldiers from the 80th Infantry Battalion who were manning the checkpoint then opened fire at the vehicle.

Nepomuceno said the soldiers were on alert because of intelligence reports that New Peoples Army rebels would attack the detachment.

However, the teeners, who were declared out of danger at the Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center, belied the soldiers' story.

They said they were on a joyride to Sitio Wawa when the soldiers shot at them. *Luige del Puerto and Alcuin Papa*

Martinez positive for shabu

By Christian Esguerra

THE PHILIPPINE Drug Enforcment Agency (PDEA) yesterday announced that former teen idol William Martinez had tested positive for shabu.

Consequently, PDEA officials said they were set to file additional charges against Martinez on top of the case for alleged possession of an illegal drug paraphernalia.

The latest case could keep Martinez in a drug rehabilitation center for at least six months, said Senior Supt. Bernardo Bondoc, PDEA spokesperson.

"He violated the Dangerous Drug Act and that's the way it is," he told the INQUIRER.

Martinez escaped temporary detention after the Pasay prosecutor's office released him "for further investigation."

PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido Jr. questioned the decision, saying Martinez should not have been released without posting bail.

Possession of drug paraphernalia such as a glass tube (commonly known as a "tooter") is punishable by a maximum four-year jail term.

MARTINEZ

The item was allegedly found in Martinez's possession during routine inspection at the domestic airport last Saturday.

Bondoc said the Pasay fiscal apparently did not file any case in court against Martinez even if the tooter showed traces of shabu during an official test.

It was only yesterday that prosecutors filed a case against Martinez in connection with the shabu paraphernalia, the official said.

The actor was freed on a P40,000 bail.

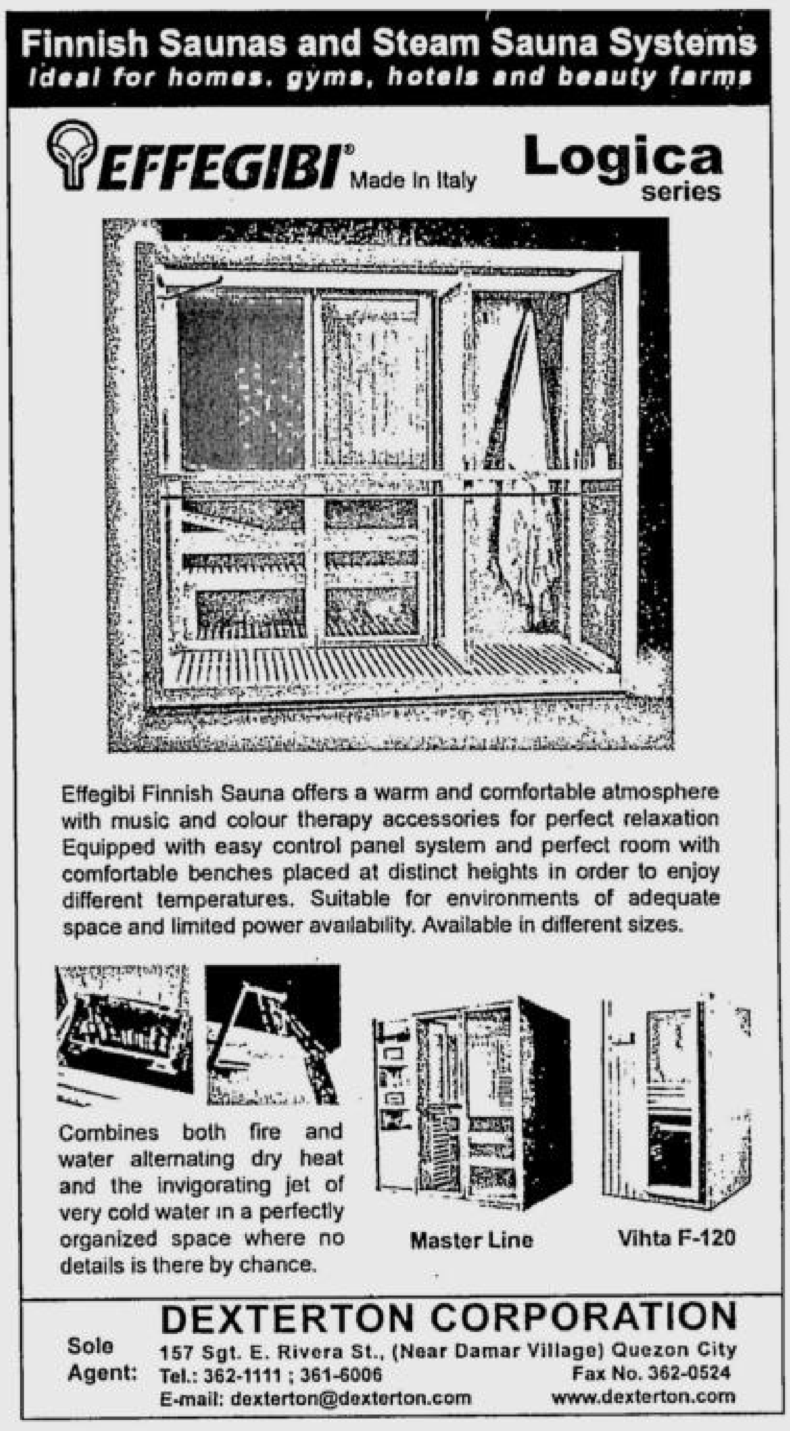
PDEA lawyers are now looking into the possibility that prosecutors violated legal procedures in the Martinez case, Bondoc said.

Two days before Martinez was arrested, PDEA officers seized eight kilos of high-grade shabu worth around P16 million during a buy-bust operation at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex.

Chinese Tony Lim, alias Willy Ong, 32, a resident of Binondo, Manila, and Dats Angondoy, 26, of Dasmariñas, Cavite, were caught in the act of selling shabu to a police undercover agent.

Sixteen packs of the banned substance were found in the suspect's possession.

Another 15 packs were seized from Lim's Mitsubishi Spacegear. *With Michael Jobert Navallo*



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WPD says it nabbed 305 for illegal posters

By Leila B. Salaverria

DENYING that policemen in Manila were only going after people putting up posters against President Macapagal-Arroyo, the Western Police District revealed that it arrested 305 people from Feb. 10 to Apr. 15 for violating election rules on campaign materials.

"Those who were arrested were putting up posters of administration and opposition candidates," said WPD spokesperson Chief Insp. Gerry Agunod.

Of those arrested, 245 were arrested on the first days of the campaign periods for national and local posts.

At the same time, only 63 have been charged with violation of the Fair Elections Act. The vast majority were only given warnings.

The WPD headquarters made the most number of arrests (231). Of the 11 WPD stations, only those in Sta. Cruz, Sta. Mesa, Malate and Sampaloc, had records of arresting people posting outside the poster areas.

METROBRIEFS

Life sentence

A MAN who killed his wife due to jealousy two years ago was meted out a life term by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court yesterday. In her decision, Judge Maria Theresa Yadao also ordered Luis Antonio Garchitorena to pay P100,000 in damages to the heirs of his wife, Flordeliza. Court records showed that on the night of Aug. 16, 2000, Garchitorena had a heated argument with the victim, whom he had suspected of having an affair with another man. He claimed he gave his wife his cocked gun and asked her to shoot herself if she was guilty of the accusation. The wife took the gun, pointed it to her head and pulled the trigger. But, the court found the accused's argument too flimsy to believe. *Tina Santos*

Garments factory razed

FIRE broke out in a garments factory in Caloocan City on Monday night, razing more than P1 million worth of property. The fire which hit the warehouse of HTK Marketing began at around 9 p.m. at the storage room where raw materials were stored. At least 12 fire trucks responded and firefighters put out the fire an hour later. Nobody was reported injured. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Pay hike urged

A GROUP composed of church people, teachers and health professionals, and other concerned individuals yesterday called on the government to grant workers immediate economic relief on Labor Day, May 1. "All they (workers) need is an urgent reprieve, a substantial wage and benefit hikes must be given without delay. The increasing cost of living in our country makes it almost impossible for workers to sustain a decent means of living for them and their families," Fr. Joe Dizon, Patriots convenor said in a statement. The group also demanded the immediate rollback in the prices of basic goods and review of pertinent laws affecting prices of goods. *Tina Santos*

Penalties vs obscene ads

WOMEN'S partylist group Gabriela yesterday said that it would push for legislation seeking to impose higher penalties against obscene advertisements and encourage responsible advertising and media practice. Gabriela's announcement came following the pullout of Napoleon brandy's "kinse anyos" ad. Liza Maza, the partylist group's former representative, said the Revised Penal Code provides a mere P6,000 to P12,000 fine for the publication of obscene materials. *Tina Santos*

Ai-ai suit junked

THE QUEZON City Prosecutor's Office has dismissed the criminal charges filed by comedienne Ai-ai de las Alas against singer Mystica and her son for lack of sufficient evidence. In her resolution, Assistant City Prosecutor Rowena de Juan-Quinagoran exonerated Mystica, Ruby Cassidy in real life, and her son, Stanley Villanueva, from libel and oral defamation charges. *Tina Santos*

Soliven exhibit

ROLLY Rodriguez Soliven's photo exhibit, "Be Still…," will open today at the Rockwell Power Plant lobby. This fund raiser will benefit cancer-stricken children at the Kythe Foundation.

LP has 2 bets for Congress in Pasig City

By Luige del Puerto

THE LIBERAL Party virtually has two candidates running for Congress in Pasig City.

Pasig Vice Mayor Lorna Bernardo is insisting that she is still the party's candidate in spite of the move of the local executive committee endorsing her rival Roman Romulo.

"I am still the official candidate of the Liberal Party for Congress," she said.

Romulo, son of President Macapagal-Arroyo's executive secretary, is not contesting her claim.

"It would be misleading if I say that I'm the official candidate. But if anyone asks me, I would say the Liberal Party is supporting me," he told the INQUIRER.

This developed as Romulo met with Liberal Party president Rep. Florencio "Butch" Abad at the Shangri-La Hotel yesterday.

Asked if Abad welcomed him to the party, Romulo said he felt that way.

"He wanted me to be there," he said.

Abad could not be reached for comment.

In an earlier interview, Romulo even expressed surprise over the extension of support of local party officials.

Young Sultan needs help

SO YOUNG but already dying.

This is what describes Muhammad Jamail Sultan, a 3-year-old boy diagnosed with the rare liver disease biliary atresia.

The disease destroys the liver cells due to the absence of bile ducts.

His doctors at St. Luke's Medical Center say a liver transplant was his only chance of survival. But the operation, which is done in Taiwan, costs P3 million.

Interested donors can reach the Sultan family at 157 Halcon St., La Loma, Quezon City, or at 783-6491; 416-9007 or cell phone 0919-3267703.

Donations can also be sent to account no. 5433-346515 under the name of Rosario Sultan ITF: Muhammad Jamail Sultan (BPI Family Bank).

They can also contact LIFT-B.A.B.I.E.S. Foundation Inc. at 32 Sto. Domingo St., San Antonio Valley XI, SAV Subd., Parañaque City.

LIFT-B.A.B.I.E.S. can be contacted at (632) 824-4621 or cellphone number 0918-9863237. *Jocelyn Uy*

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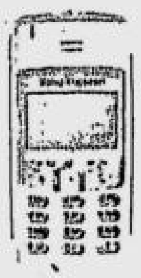

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2004 Powerade Jam Fest; 10:30 a.m. (r); ESPN— See the best high school hoopsters in action.
NBA Greatest Games-Raptors vs Knicks, Game 5, 2001 First Round; 11 a.m.; Solar Sports— Toronto edges New York.

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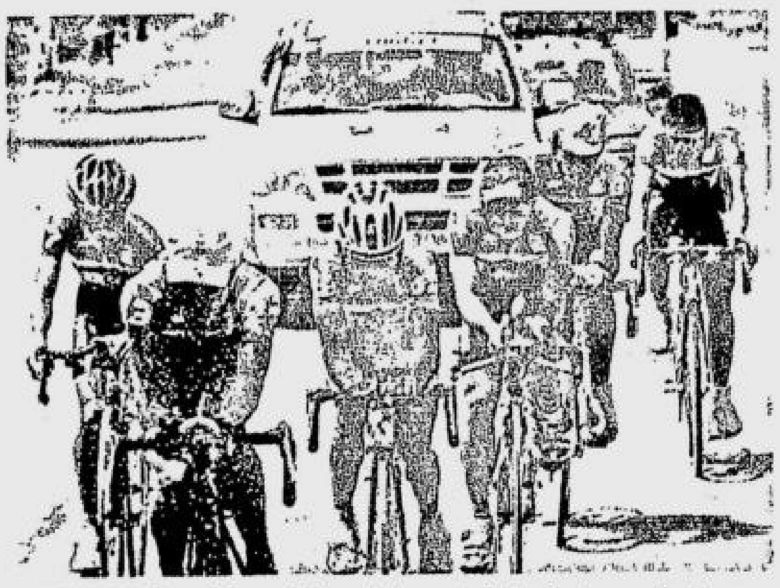
- Lean RP contingent for Athens A26
- One to go for Kings, Pistons A27

Cordillera test looms as riders take a break



DOMINGO (fourth from left) and the rest of the Postmen, the team overall leader, ride leisurely along the highway in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, in preparation for today's team time trial. ROMY HOMILLADA

Tour sub-plot thickens

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LAOAG CITY—The Air21 Tour Pilipinas took a break yesterday but the bikathon's sub-plots continued to thicken ahead of the make-or-break weekend for the 81 surviving riders.

As the punishing trek to the Cordilleras approaches, recriminations fly between members of the RP Team and their pampered counterparts from the RP Trade Team.

After 12 of the 17 stages of the lung-busting Tour, three Trade Team mainstays belonging to different squads looked well entrenched at the top of the overall standings.

PLDT skipper Rhyan Tanguilig, who will wear the yellow jersey for the first time in his career today, the second-running Dole captain Albert Primero and Metro Drug's Ronald Gorantes have so far put the RP Team riders in the shade.

Tanguilig has logged 50 hours, 36 minutes and 41 seconds and holds a three-minute, 28-second lead over Primero and 4:10 minutes over the man he replaced as overall leader, Enrique Domingo of the Postmen.

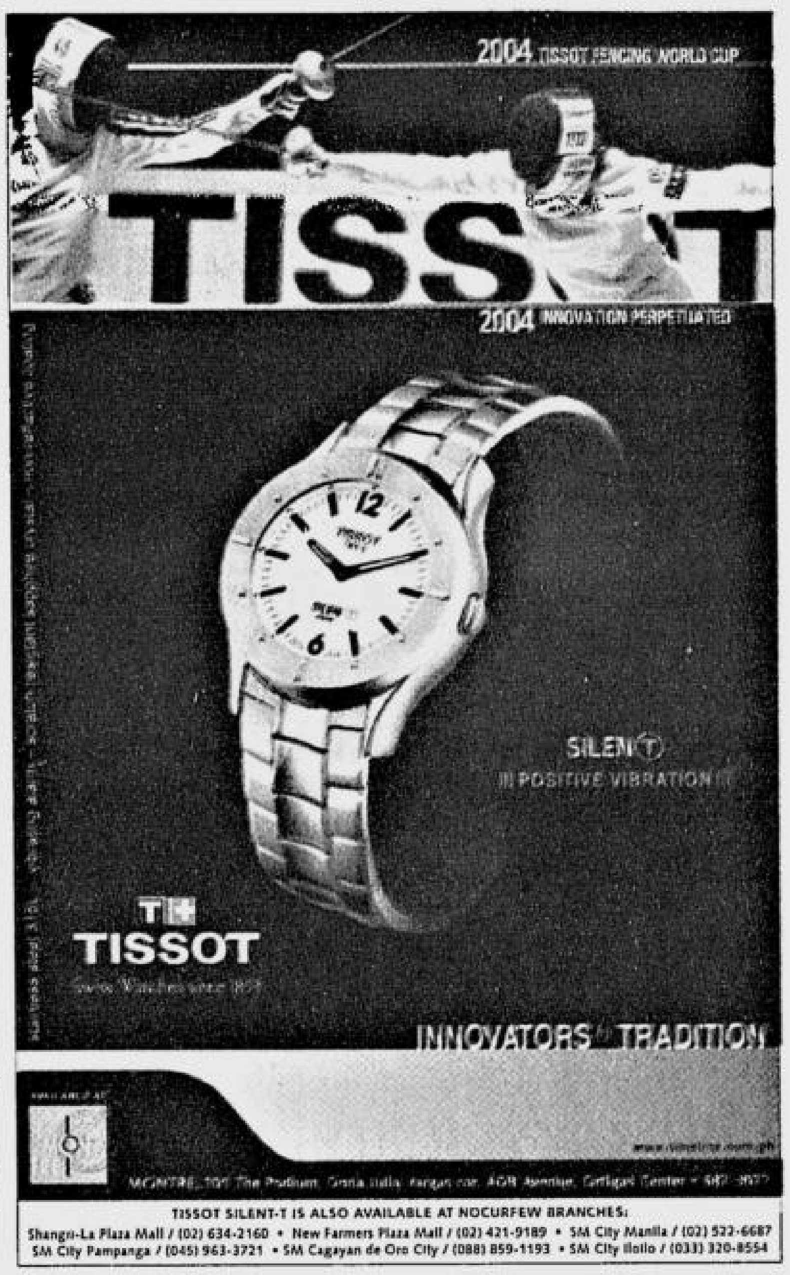
There seems to be no problem with that because Domingo admittedly lacked the strength to tackle the ascents that dotted Monday's 252-km stage from Aparri, the Tour's longest.

But when Tanguilig, Primero and Gorantes—along with fellow Trade Team pals Victor Espiritu and Lloyd Reynante—arrived here Monday among the stage's top 9 finishers, tension reached new heights.

RP Team stalwarts led by Warren Davadilla, the 1998 Tour winner, cried conspiracy and sought an investigation.

At any rate, the seven members of the Trade Team, also known as the Team Pagcor, merely shrugged off the accusation. The crack squad, which saw action in the Tour de Langkawi last February, separated themselves from the rest of their teams, changed to crisp clothes inside a van and checked in as a group at the posh Fort Ilocandia resort.

Meanwhile, Samsung's Merculio Ramos, who led the field after two stages, retired after failing to recover from the flu.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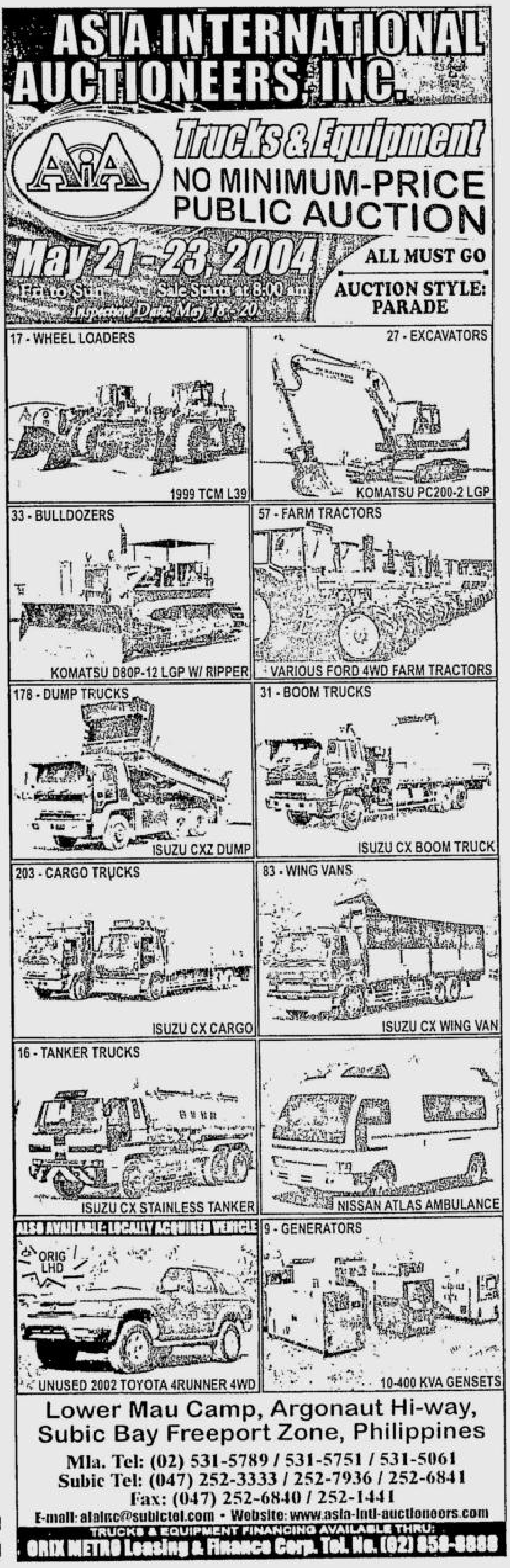
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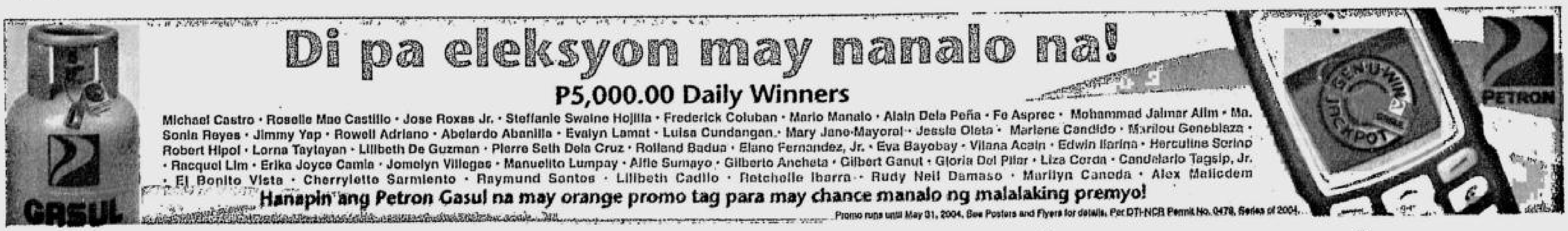
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10. O. Quinones (Purefoods) 14:42 mins. behind
9. J. Millanes (Postmen) 14:20 mins. behind
8. E. Feliciano (Patrol 117) 13:32 mins. behind
7. B. Ravina (VAT Riders) 13:16 mins. behind
6. T. Martinez (Beer na Beer) 11:20 mins. behind
5. R. Gorantes (Metro Drug) 10:59 mins. behind
4. J. Calderon (Beer na Beer) 5:27 mins. behind
3. E. Doimingo (Postmen) 4:10 mins. behind
2. A. Primero (Dole) 3:28 mins. behind
1. R. Tanguilig (PLDT) 50:36:41 hrs.

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Lee Pipes shoots down Hapee five

By Trina Ibarle

LARRY Fonacier scored eight points in the homestretch as Lee Pipes-Ateneo finally broke into the win column after seven games with an 87-81 upset of defending champion Hapee Toothpaste yesterday in the 2004 PBL Unity Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

The 6-foot-3 Fonacier's explosion halted Hapee's threat at 70-63 and towed Lee-Pipes to safer ground, 83-72, with 1:59 left.

Hapee's Emerson Oreta canned back-to-back triples, but his effort came too late and the Teeth Sparklers skidded to a 3-4 win-loss tally.

In the second game, Alex Compton sizzled with 34 points as Sunkist-UST trounced Montaña, 82-75, and improved to 4-3.

GAMES TOMORROW (*Pasig Sports Center*)
2 p.m.—Welcoat vs Toyota Otis-Letran
4 p.m.—Viva Mineral Water vs Blu Star

The scores:

First Game

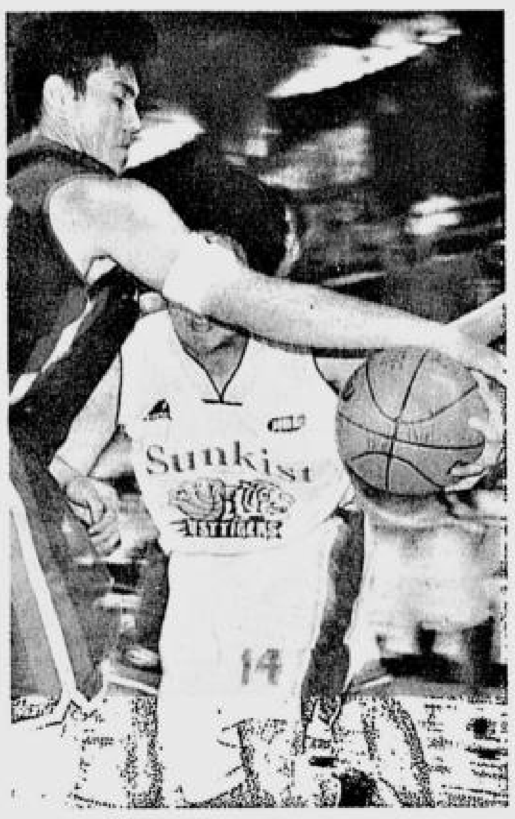
LEE PIPES-ATENEO 87—Fonacier 17, Bugia 19, Gelig 14, Tenorio 11, Manalo 10, Del Rosario 9, Membrere 7, Intal 5, Cruz 2, Domingo 0, Roldan 0.

HAPEE 81—Oreta 16, Moore 15, Juntila 15, Mercado 9, Macapagal 8, Tan 6, Cordero 5, Napa 3, Dy 2, Dualan 2, Mendoza 0.

Second Game

SUNKIST-UST 82—Compton 34, Luanzon 16, Coronel 9, Patrimonio 8, Vizcarra 8, Latoreno 4, Magsumbol 3, Capati 0, Sumalinog 0, Hubalde 0, Paterno 0, Raterta 0.

MONTAÑA 75—Salvador 15, Najorda 13, Buenafe 8, Vergara 8, Baluyot 6, Tolentino 6, Baguion 5, Ilanga 4, Guerrero 3, Espiritu 2, Junio 2.



MONTAÑA'S Jon-dan Salvador grabs the ball from Sunkist Jemal Vizcarra during last night's 2004 PBL Unity Cup. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Gin Kings out to give 'Siot' 2nd win in row

BARANGAY Ginebra hopes to keep its momentum going when it tackles listless FedEx at 4:45 p.m. today in the PBA Gran Matador Fiesta Conference at the PhilSports Arena.

The Gin Kings and coach Bethune "Siot" Tanquingcen finally broke out of a rut with a 104-94 conquest of the Alaska Aces last Thursday in Puerto Princesa City.

Mark Caguioa starred in that game for the Kings with 29 points, lifting Ginebra to only its fourth win in 11 games and handing Tanquingcen his first victory after five straight defeats since taking over the coaching reins from Allan Caidic.

In contrast, the Express are reeling from a 119-90 drubbing dealt them by the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals last Saturday.

The Phone Pals are eyeing their eighth win in 13 outings against the Aces (7-4).

GAMES TODAY (*Philsports Arena*)
4:45 p.m.—Ginebra vs FedEx
7:10 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Alaska

Bisera paces Lascuña, Pacto by 2

By Jong Arcano

LATE-FINISHING longshot Ramil Bisera fired a four-under-par 68 yesterday and grabbed a two-shot lead over favorites Antonio Lascuña and Robert Pactolerin at the start of the P1 million PGAP-Julio Cup at the Villamor Golf Club course.

Bisera, his confidence boosted by his career-best sixth place finish in The Country Club Invitational two months ago, pulled in front on a round of six birdies against two bogeys.

The 30-year-old Bisera made all of his birdies from inside eight feet as he took a big step towards winning his first title in a 10-year pro career.

Pactolerin and Lascuña both fired 70s, while amateur Juvic Pagunsan, competing against the pros again after a close miss in the Philippine Open, and Roger Cabajar were three shots back.

Only four sub-par rounds were produced as the field of 80 players found their fortunes swinging wild on the sun-hardened fairways and greens.

The scores: 68—R. Bisera; 70—R. Pactolerin, A. Lascuña; 71—J. Pagunsan (am), R. Cabajar; 72—J. Bayron (am), R. Banares, J. Rempojo; 74—J. Rates, L. Quiachon, O. Sumcad; 75—J. Bemis (am) A. Eso, E. Salvador, J. Pagunsan, R. Enema, E. Abada, R. Marcelo, M. Dumandan; 76—C. Casas, C. Ababa, L. Serdena, R. Torrecampo

Alcantaras sparkle

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Francis JP Alcantara emerged double champion at the conclusion of the Head Penn Junior Tennis Tournament yesterday at the Nazareth Tennis Courts here.

The 12-year-old incoming Grade 6 student of Ateneo de Cagayan downed Princeton Gerapusto, 6-1, 6-4, for the boys' 12 and under title and then trounced John Largo, 6-2, 6-2, for the boys' 14-under crown.

Earlier, Derrick Alcantara, 9-year-old brother of Francis, beat Kent Garay, 6-1, 6-4, to claim the 10-under unisex title of the event sponsored by Dynamic Sports, Chris Sports, Toalson, Gamma, Accel and Nissin Cup Noodles.

Mark Alcoseba whipped Marvin Serrito, 6-2, 6-4, for the 18-under plum.

In girls' play, Honey Gilles blanked Jesssa Marie Ladera, 6-0, 6-0, for the 12-under title of the tournament serving as the second of a six-leg, city-hopping series. The third leg is set in Dumaguete April 30-May 3.

Olivarez leads advance of Toby's net favorites

FOURTH seed Pablo Olivarez downed Julius Lagman, 6-3, 6-2, and No.7 Gerard Michael Ngo rallied past Jarryd Manduriao, 2-6, 6-2, 7-5, yesterday to lead the first-round winners in the boys' 16-under division of the Toby's-Philta Juniors Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

In other matches, No. 3 Russell Arcilla Jr. downed Emiel Bautista, 6-2, 6-0, Mark Balce beat Noel Castillo, 6-1, 6-0, Paul Cang routed Shanon Khadka, 6-3, 6-3, and Mikoff Manduriao trounced Vincent Atienza, 6-3, 6-2. Other winners were Daniel Luis Macalino, John Clement Ner, Raymarc Santiago, Alvin Manalastas, Ronnel Enilo, Mark Garcia, Eric Pepito, Jomar Sucaldito, Jeffrey Onate, John Rey Capito, Marlo Espedido, Patrick Arevalo, Kent Concepcion, Jeffrey Calcita, Martin Ramos, Edrick Pareñas, Francis Onate and Anthony Laplap.

In the boys' 14-under division, fifth seed Joshua Tan Ho blasted Jason Pasamba, 6-0, 6-0.

Where have all the heroes gone?

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

WHAT'S that report on the death of a 27-year-old American soldier in war-torn Afghanistan doing in the sports section?

The item could indeed be out of place, and we couldn't blame our top sports officials if they suspected that newspaper section editors had crossed their signals.

To the plain reader, the death of Pat Tillman, killed in an intense firefight in southwestern Afghanistan last week as his Army Ranger unit hunted al-Qaeda and Taliban guerillas, belonged to the foreign news page.

It's great that two of the six newspapers we subscribe to, namely the Today and Malaya, generously splashed features on Tillman in its sports section on Sunday.

It was no error in judgment, mind you, because the Tillman battlefield tragedy perfectly fits the annals of sports legends.

Not only because the slain American soldier was an ex-US football star.

The Tillman story was in its perfect place to send the message that, above anything else, an athlete must be possessed of a heroic heart in order to excel.

***

"The 27-year-old soldier, who quit his National Football League career to fanfare in May 2002, eight months after the Sept. 11 attacks on America, was the most prominent American public figure killed in fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan," reported Malaya quoting a wire story.

The story goes that Tillman enlisted with his brother, Kevin, in the wake of the 2001 attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center, thereby turning down a $3.6 million contract from the Arizona Cardinals to become an Army Ranger for an annual salary of $18,000.

Tillman also declined interviews, and refused to take the spotlight, after he had made the heroic choice.

"To see people with that kind of character is something you don't forget," retired NBA star David Robinson was quoted by Today as saying. "I thought it was really a good story."

Tillman must have been a rare exception, said Robinson. "What he did was obviously something he felt in his heart, a calling," he added. "It's about service. It's about believing in something, and fighting for it."

It was about making a choice that most others wouldn't, said the ex-NBA stalwart, because Tillman had a sense of what makes a life truly significant.

***

Could've a Tillman happened in our midst, given our soggy national sports set-up?

This question is raised with the certainty that Tillman, although born of noble traits, had his heart and sense of service fully developed while competing out in the sports field.

Which meant he was also guided and inspired by dedicated mentors and leaders who never tired of infusing in budding sportsmen the sense of service and dedication.

There must've been a few budding Tillmans in the ranks of our national athletes.

There could've been at least one Tillman waiting to give up fortune and stardom to answer the call of duty.

No need to wonder though why most of our athletes, despite their pureness of heart, eventually lose conviction.

Much as they wanted to seek for one, they could not find inspiration.

With the sickening behavior of selfish sports leaders, most of our athletes are forced to behave like merchants out to grab at incentives ahead of honor.

There is the usual picture of growling national sports officials clawing at each other in a sick bid to perpetuate themselves in their rich, lucrative offices.

***

Yes, they know all too well the difference between $18,000 and $3.6 million.

It's a pity. But do you know that, once upon a time, when pure native values and heroism were still unspoiled by silly political patronage, greed and cheap commercialism, the Philippines had produced Olympic medalists with truly heroic hearts?

There was, on top of the noble list, Dr. Regino Ylanan, whose achievements in effective, selfless sports leadership should've earned him a monument.

There were also tales about swimmer Teofilo Yldefonso and trackster Miguel White, both Olympic bronze medalists, who were killed while serving in the anti-Japanese movement during the last war.

They were true, dedicated citizens before they could become winning athletes.

Theirs were stories that should be told and retold for current and future generations to emulate.

Out in the USA, you can bet that the bookstands would soon be flooded with biographies of Tillman.

Meanwhile, lardy life stories of our current sports leaders, mainly of the overweight, pampered political appointees, would predictably land where they perfectly belong: the garbage can.

SPORTSWATCH

NBDL Founders Cup unfolds May 4

THE NBDL (National Basketball Development League) Founder's Cup tournament unwraps on May 4 at the PAF gym in Villamor Air Base and Emilio Aguinaldo College gymnasium along Taft Avenue. Organizer Ted Magno, veteran coach and sports and physical education director, has invited MIAA, Air Force, Garfield Philippines, Navy, TIP, Eagle Squad, San Lorenzo College and PMI to participate. Interested colleges, universities and clubs may call (049) 568-0300 or 0919-5968978 for details. Magno will meet with team managers and representatives at 2 p.m. tomorrow at the PSC Cafeteria, Rizal Memorial Sports Complex to discuss the rules and format.

Ozamiz joins Panasonic-NBC hoops tilt

OZAMIZ has renewed its commitment to the National Basketball Conference (NBC) by confirming its participation in the Panasonic-NBC national championship which opens on May 22 in Baguio City and May 23 in Cagayan de Oro. Mayor Reynaldo Parohinog and city administrator Mike Achate confirmed its return to the NBC in a recent meeting with NBC secretary general Tito Palma. With Ozamiz's entry, the NBC Southern cast has been completed. Also vying in the South Conference are Cebu, CdO and Iloilo. Ozamiz, a two-time regional champion when NBC was still called NBL, is an early favorite in the national championship. Meanwhile, NBC will hold its first press conference and team managers meeting at the Amigo Hotel in Iloilo on May 7.

Timoney sets up semis clash with Rivero

OLONGAPO—Kathryn Timoney routed Marie Ball, 6-0, 6-2, yesterday to barge into the semifinal round of the girls' 12-under division and keep the Aramco flag flying high in the 2004 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop at the Olongapo Tennis Club here. Timoney set up a clash with top seed Mary Rivero in the Philta-sanctioned netfest organized by CTW to celebrate Milo's 40 years in the Philippine consumer market and supported by Wilson balls, adidas and Sports Kids. In the boys' 14-under class, Paul Papa of La Union downed Ibrahim Nawwab, 6-3, 6-1, to also advance to the final four. In other results, Thrisia Vytiaco edged Reem Yousif, 6-4, 6-7, 6-4, Jeff Corpuz defeated JV Guevarra, 7-5, 6-3, and AJ Rivero blanked Jurence Mendoza, 6-0, 6-0.

Caidic, Lim, Calma play for SMC All Stars

ALLAN Caidic, Samboy Lim and Hector Calma banner the San Miguel All-Stars when the squad visits Barrio Obrero in Tondo, Manila for an exhibition game on Saturday, eve of the community fiesta. The SMC All-Stars battles the Barrio Obrero Youth Athletic Association (BOYAA) squad which will be reinforced by Sta. Lucia Realty coach Francis Chua, ex-Crispa Redmanizer Itoy Esguerra, former Ginebra power forward Harmon Codiñera and ex-Purefoods center Chris Cantonjos. Sponsored by Manila District II council bet Rolan Valeriano, the game is set at 7 p.m. Led by club president Boyet Balacania, the BOYAA team will feature Mandy Roman, Jun Panlilio, Jojo Mazo, Eddie Balacania, Rolan Valerio, Hapee Toothpaste's Olan Omiping, AMA's Josel Suarez and Lyceum's Leo dela Cruz, among others.

Puyat Golf tourney fires off at Valley

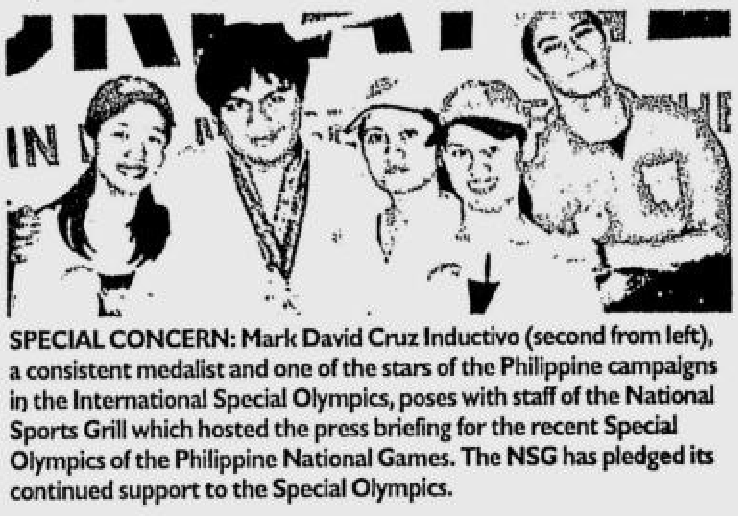
THE GOVERNOR Antonio Puyat Golf Cup tees off today at the Valley Golf and Country Club in Antipolo City. Registration starts at 7 a.m. The tournament is organized by Rotary International District 3800 and hosted by Zone 7 (RC-San Juan) and Zone 8 (RC-Mandaluyong). Rotary Club of Mandaluyong president Benny J. Brizuela and director Joey Uy said trophies and prizes including color TV sets and P100,000 cash prizes for holes-in-one are at stake.

LPC 3-cocker features 47 fights

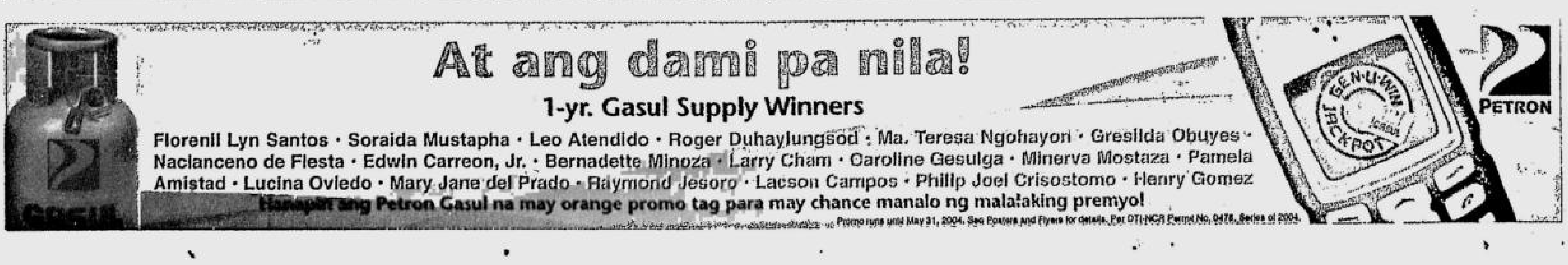
ANOTHER 3-cock derby sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 is scheduled tonight at the air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum with 47 exciting fights on tap. The cash prize at stake is P300,000 for an entry fee of P5,500. Derby host Arki Ronnie dela Cruz said participants should submit their entries today, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., or call 8731040 or 09205609404 (Julius) for inquiries. Six entries shared the championship in last Saturday's 3-cock event—Alexander (Alex Tobias), RB Farm (Raymond Burgos), Sagupaan Para sa Masa (Patrick Antonio), Bong Jawo Po Tayo (Marlon Bautista), May 27 2-cock Arcontica and Cavite Coliseum April 26 (Roger del Rosario).

Sta. Cruz de Mayo derby under way

THE STA. Cruz de Mayo 5-Cock Derby featuring cockers and breeders from Laguna, Rizal, Quezon province, Batangas, Cavite, Bulacan and Pampanga sizzles tonight at Roligon Mega Cockpit. Scheduled today is the 2-cock first round of eliminations. Participants may also field an entry on Saturday. The championship round is set Monday. The prize at stake is P1 million while entry fee is only P8,800, said derby hosts Soseng Gotengco and engineer Francis Sales.



SPECIAL CONCERN: Mark David Cruz Inductivo (second from left), a consistent medalist and one of the stars of the Philippine campaigns in the International Special Olympics, poses with staff of the National Sports Grill which hosted the press briefing for the recent Special Olympics of the Philippine National Games. The NSG has pledged its continued support to the Special Olympics.



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PETRON

Where did athletic fees go?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

WHATEVER happened to the law that requires schools, colleges and universities to implement an athletic program for the benefit of the student body? Because of this law, schools collect athletic fees from their students every semester. But how come some of these schools do not have a genuine athletic program despite these athletic fees collected from students? Where did the money go?

Schools collect athletic fees for Physical Education (PE), but these athletic funds should be spent for sporting activities for the well-being of their students, not for the construction of sports facilities (which only benefits the school and their owners) and allowances of players, which should be shouldered by the schools themselves.

In the old days, a school, college or university with an enrollment of 3,000 students was required to have a physical education department headed by a director with a master's degree and a staff. But this is no longer required today, according to former Philippine Olympic Committee president retired Col. Julian Malonso. Just like the fuel deregulation, it's left to the schools to decide whether to have a PE department or not.

"That is the reason why PE has gone to the dogs," said Malonso, a former Spanish professor and physical director at the Letran College.

Physical Education is a requirement in the elementary and secondary schools from the tertiary level. In the elementary and secondary schools, PE was integrated with the other subjects, while the Bureau of Physical Education and Sports was abolished when the Philippine Sports Commission was created in 1991. Obviously, PE is not a priority and remains a poor relation in this country.

Singh wins delayed Open

HUMBLE, Texas—Vijay Singh shot a 4-under 68 in the final round Monday, holding off Scott Hoch and John Daly for a two-stroke victory in the rain-delayed Houston Open. Singh finished the four rounds at 11-under 277 for his second victory in Houston, where he won two years ago. It was the 17th tour victory for Singh and second this year. In 11 events in 2004, he's finished in the top 10 six times. Hoch was second at 9 under after a closing 67. *AP*

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AT SANTA ANA
BY MR. 999

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Race 3—1. College Gem 2. Mercurian 3. Lucky Beat
Race 4—1. Princess Ann 2. Flying Free 3. Super Magic 4. Boogie Shoes 5. Magical Charm
Race 5—1. Sweet Talk 2. Cause of Our Joy 3. Dynamic Jason 4. Pirouette 5. Hurry Prince
Race 6—1. Strawberry's Wish 2. Front Page 3. Batang Cabu 4. Gold Prosperity
Race 7—1. St. Emilion 2. Doctor Ben 3. Classic Model 4. Mano Po 5. Daytona
Race 8—1. Korek Ka Dyan 2. Kitana 3. Samahan 3. Dennis D Menace 5. Carlo's Charm 6. Victory Lap

One to go for Kings, Pistons

DALLAS, Texas—Sacramento and Detroit won crucial road victories Monday in the NBA playoffs, each club seizing a 3-1 lead in its best-of-seven opening-round series.

Mike Bibby scored a game-high 22 points while Serbian Peja Stojakovic added 20 points, 11 rebounds, five assists and tough defense to foil a tying shot attempt in the final seconds of Sacramento's 94-92 victory at Dallas.

Detroit, the NBA's top defensive club, showed their offensive skills to win, 109-92, at Milwaukee. Richard Hamilton scored 27 points and Rasheed Wallace added 20 and nine rebounds for the Pistons.

Both Sacramento and Detroit can advance with home triumphs Thursday.

Chris Webber added 17 points for Sacramento but nearly cost the Kings when he stepped on the baseline after making a rebound, giving Dallas the ball with 8.4 seconds remaining and a chance to erase a two-point deficit.

Steve Nash used a pick-and-roll move to get a matchup against Stojakovic, but the Dallas guard could not escape Stojakovic's coverage and hurled a desperation shot that missed at the final buzzer.

Dirk Nowitzki had 21 points and 14 rebounds to lead the Mavericks, who like the Bucks must win three in a row to erase a 3-1 deficit and advance, a feat only seven clubs in NBA history have accomplished. *AFP*

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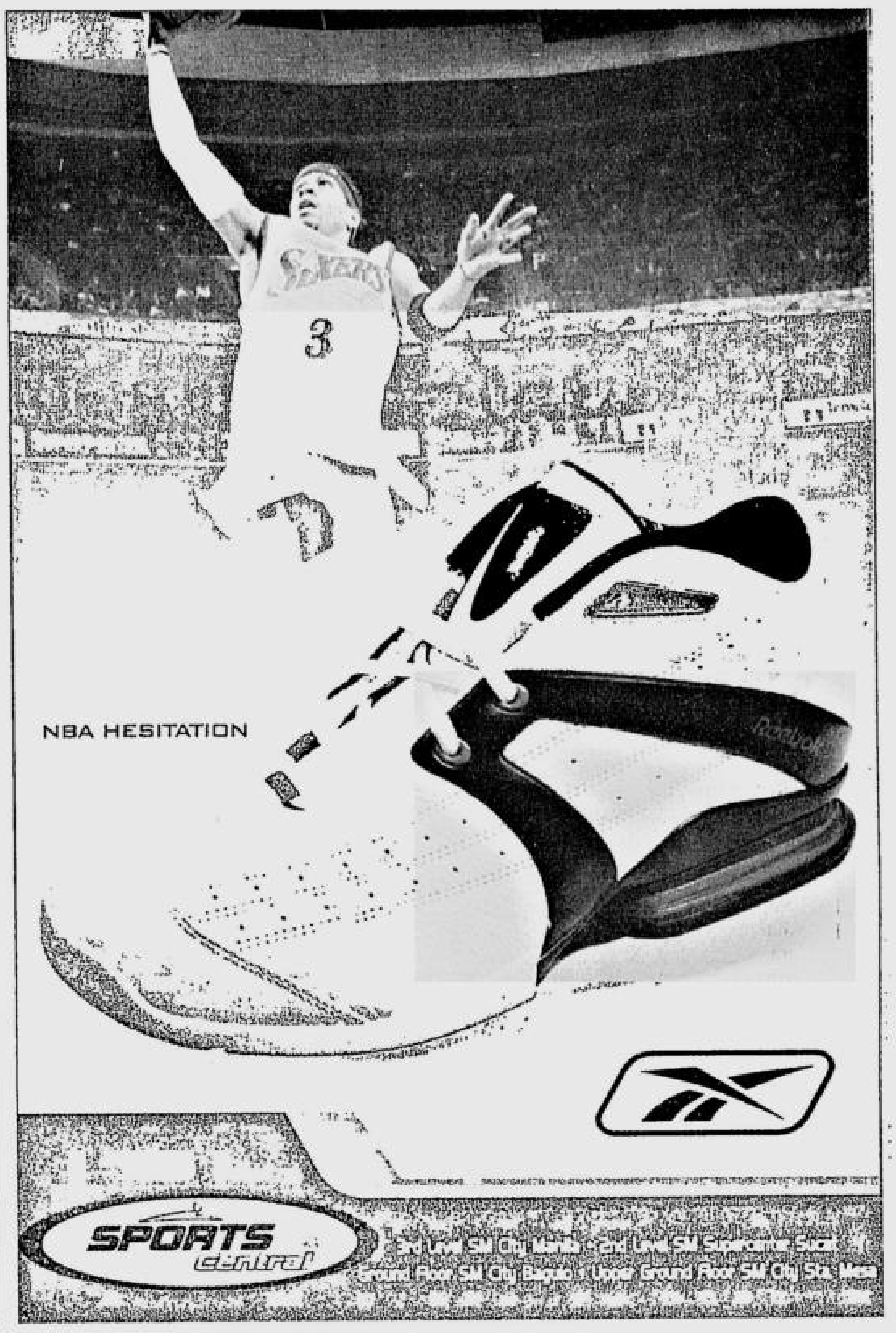

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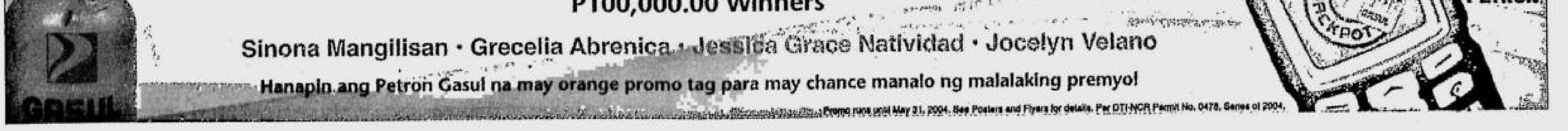

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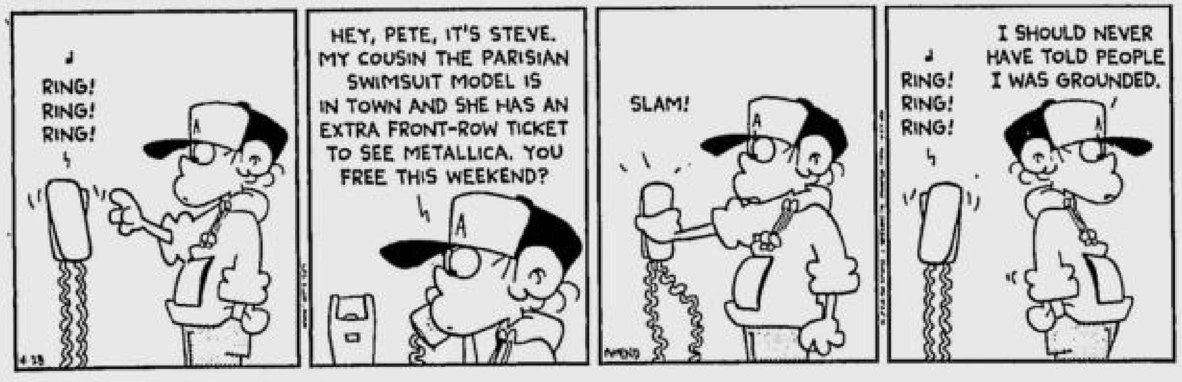
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND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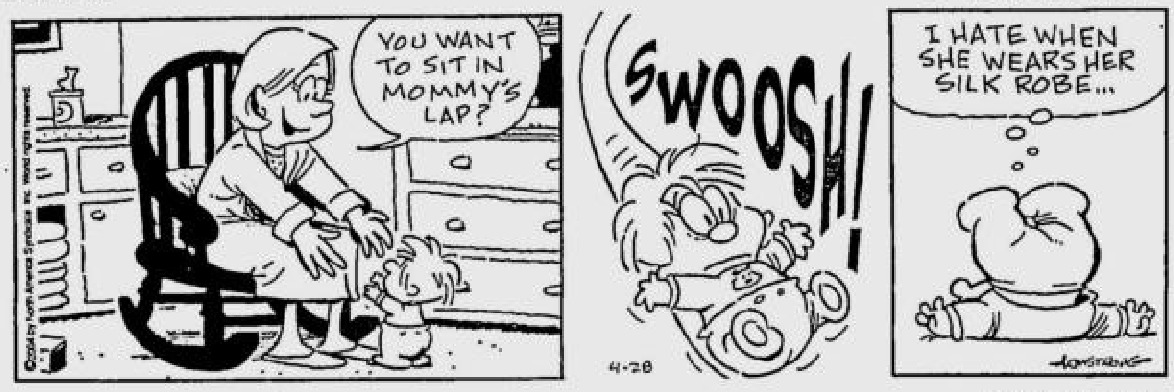
SLAM!
RING! RING! RING!
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE TOLD PEOPLE I WAS GROUNDED.
4-28
AMEND

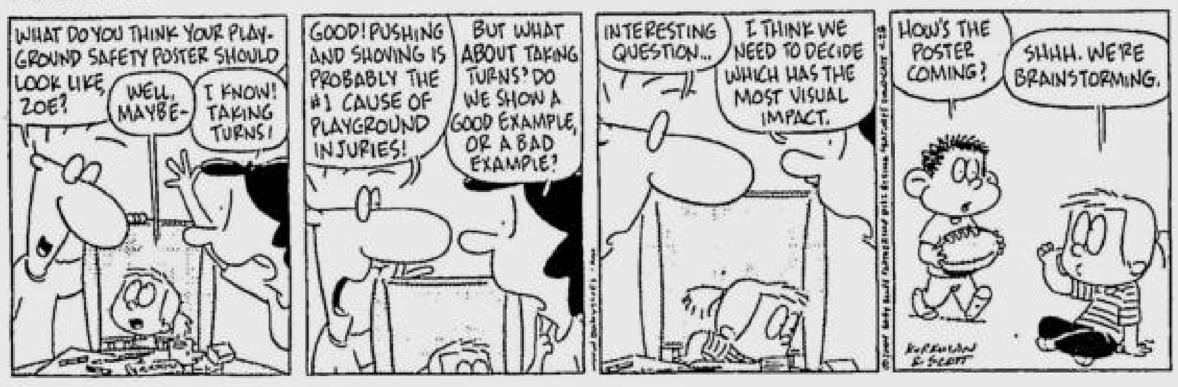
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


YOU WANT TO SIT IN MOMMY'S LAP?
SWOOSH!
4-28
I HATE WHEN SHE WEARS HER SILK ROBE...
ARMSTRONG

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT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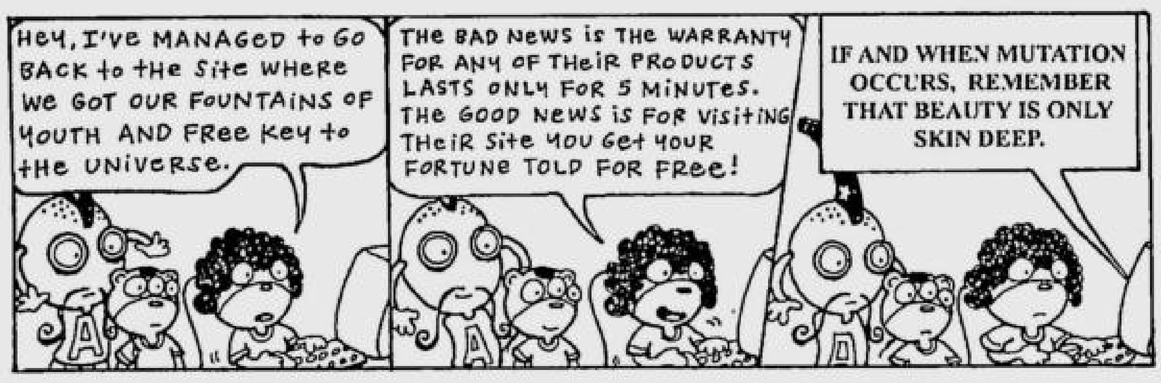
I KNOW! TAKING TURNS!
GOOD! PUSHING AND SHOVING IS PROBABLY THE #1 CAUSE OF PLAYGROUND INJURIES!
BUT WHAT ABOUT TAKING TURNS? DO WE SHOW A GOOD EXAMPLE, OR A BAD EXAMPLE?
INTERESTING QUESTION...
I THINK WE NEED TO DECIDE WHICH HAS THE MOST VISUAL IMPACT.
HOW'S THE POSTER COMING?
SHHH. WE'RE BRAINSTORMING.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HEY, I'VE MANAGED TO GO BACK TO THE SITE WHERE WE GOT OUR FOUNTAINS OF YOUTH AND FREE KEY TO THE UNIVERSE.
THE BAD NEWS IS THE WARRANTY FOR ANY OF THEIR PRODUCTS LASTS ONLY FOR 5 MINUTES. THE GOOD NEWS IS FOR VISITING THEIR SITE YOU GET YOUR FORTUNE TOLD FOR FREE!
IF AND WHEN MUTATION OCCURS, REMEMBER THAT BEAUTY IS ONLY SKIN DEEP.
A

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're steadfast, loyal and tenacious. You have a strong presence; people are always aware of you. You take care with your appearance, and you know how to charm others. You are a loyal friend and a strong supporter of family. The year ahead focuses on your closest relationships and partnerships.
Birthdate of: Ann-Margret, actress; Penelope Cruz, actress; Jessica Alba, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day to buy something for your home that you want to last for a long time. Whatever you purchase will be sensible, practical and beneficial for you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is the perfect day to make long-range plans about your future, and especially your daily routine. Make changes that are supportive and practical. Make life easier for yourself!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is an excellent day to deal with the government or large institutions. You'll find cooperation easy to achieve. (What a relief!)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Advice from someone older or more experienced will likely come to you today. Don't reject it out of pride or distrust. Listen to what others have to say.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Someone who is in a position of influence can help you today. Never shun good advice. Be open to suggestions from your boss or perhaps your parent. (You don't have to reinvent the wheel.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You might come up with practical, long-term ideas connected with medicine, the law, publishing or higher education. Don't be afraid to invest in your future. (You're worth it!)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): The resources of someone else can help promote your own career path today. This could be direct, practical assistance or perhaps advice worth listening to!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Whatever tasks you do today will be done carefully, with attention to detail. Your serious, attentive nature impresses others, including members of the general public.

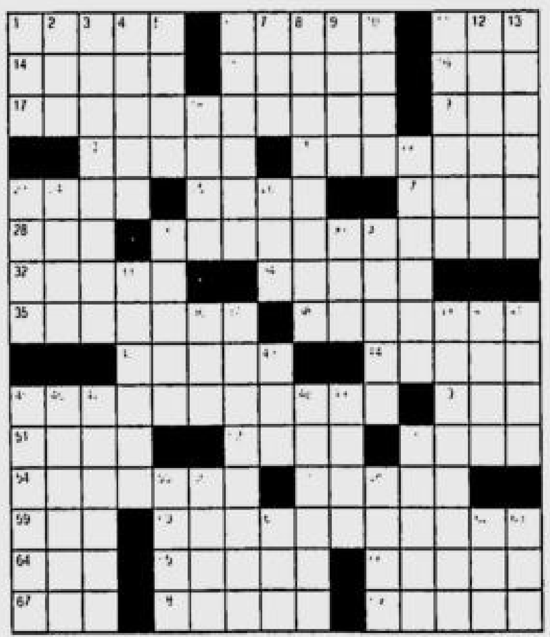
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You can accomplish a lot on the job today because you're willing to give extra effort to every detail. You understand the carpenter's motto: "Measure twice; cut once."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You will probably have an opportunity to impress young minds or children today. Teach them that whatever they do, it ultimately affects their future. There's no such thing as a free lunch.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Listen to what a parent or older relative has to say today. This advice might help you in your domestic scene. It could solidify your home base in some way.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a good day for serious thinking. You want to plan ahead so that you know where you're going. If you know where you're going, you'll likely get there. All great accomplishments begin as a single idea.

DAILY CROSSWORD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67

By Gordon Seaberg
Los Angeles, CA

4/28/04

ACROSS
1 Half-and-half half
6 Quips
11 Slugger's stat
14 Self-indulgent spree
15 White poplar
16 Hearing organ
17 Television in show biz
19 Corn or pod starter?
20 Paradigm
21 Means of ascent
23 Lateen-rigged sailboat
25 Talking bird
27 Writer Wiesel
28 Thole insert
29 Champagne song
32 Muralist Rivera
34 Gantry or Fudd
35 Sequential
38 Corrode
42 Friendly regard
44 Japanese seaport
45 Alcott classic
50 Came down with
51 Superior relative?
52 Clear a hurdle
53 June Carter's Johnny
54 Venice craft
57 Film holders
59 Hill builder
60 Opry regular
64 PGA peg
65 Arabian Sea feeder
66 Funny Jack of Hollywood
67 Byrnes of "77 Sunset Strip"
68 Seed covering
69 Derisive

DOWN
1 Letterman's network
2 Periphery
3 Captivated
4 Radiant
5 Pinochle declaration
6 Smith of "Charlie's Angels"
7 Shortened bk.
8 Thin-skinned?
9 Zeno of _
10 Dispatch
11 Pass gossip
12 Peter Pan's creator
13 Eye parts
18 18-wheeler
22 Wreckage
23 Extinct bird
24 Head locks
26 Comic Louis
29 Having harmony
30 Actress Thurman
31 Back at the track
33 Talented
36 Roman greeting
37 Scottish region
39 Atomic bomb blast site
40 Some ring results
41 Sacred promise
43 Lobster eggs
45 Official emissary
46 Smoothed (out)
47 Like some windshields
48 Tomei of "My Cousin Vinny"
49 Fencer's foil
53 Spotless
55 Skip over
56 Betting odds
58 Homer's forte
61 Zealot
62 Disencumber
63 DeForest or Trevino

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

F	L	A	N	■	C	H	A	N	■	C	A	S	E	D
L	I	M	O	■	L	O	L	A	■	A	R	O	S	E
O	M	O	O	■	A	P	O	L	■	R	E	U	S	E
F	A	R	N	O	S	F	T	H	R	O	A	T	■	■
■	■	■	E	O	S	■	■	T	I	L	■	H	R	S
A	L	F	■	H	A	L	F	■	P	I	C	K	E	T
L	O	I	S	■	C	O	O	S	■	N	A	O	M	I
L	O	C	K	S	T	O	C	K	B	A	R	R	E	L
A	S	K	I	N	■	K	A	Y	E	■	S	E	N	T
N	E	S	T	O	R	■	E	T	A	S	■	A	D	S
S	S	A	■	O	U	T	■	■	R	I	A	■	■	■
■	■	P	E	T	E	R	P	A	U	L	M	A	R	Y
A	M	A	T	I	■	C	A	R	P	■	A	M	I	E
M	O	R	A	L	■	A	R	N	O	■	N	I	N	A
P	E	T	T	Y	■	T	E	E	N	■	A	N	D	S

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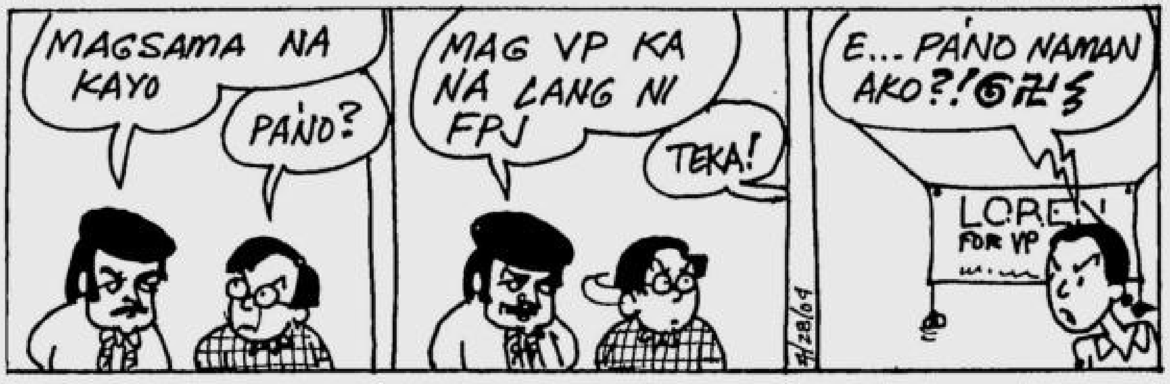
4/28/04

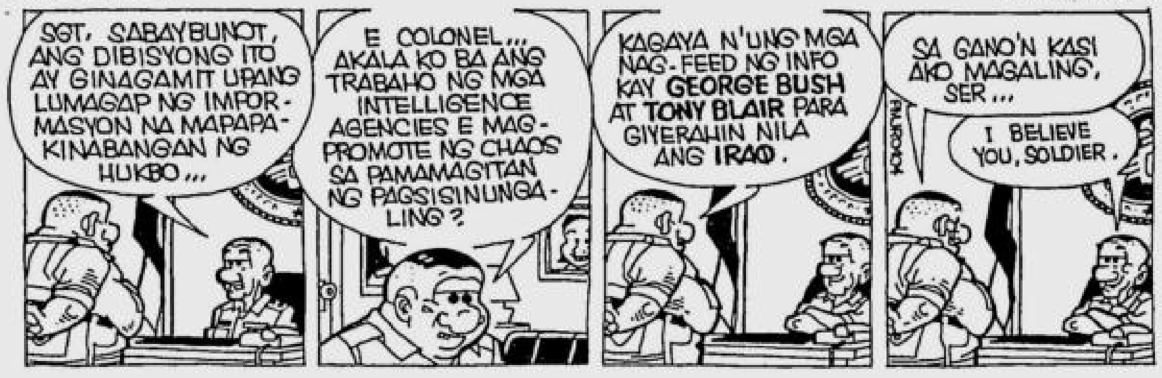
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAGSAMA NA KAYO
PAÑO?
MAG VP KA NA LANG NI FPJ
TEKA!
4/28/04
E... PAÑO NAMAN AKO?!
LOREN FOR VP

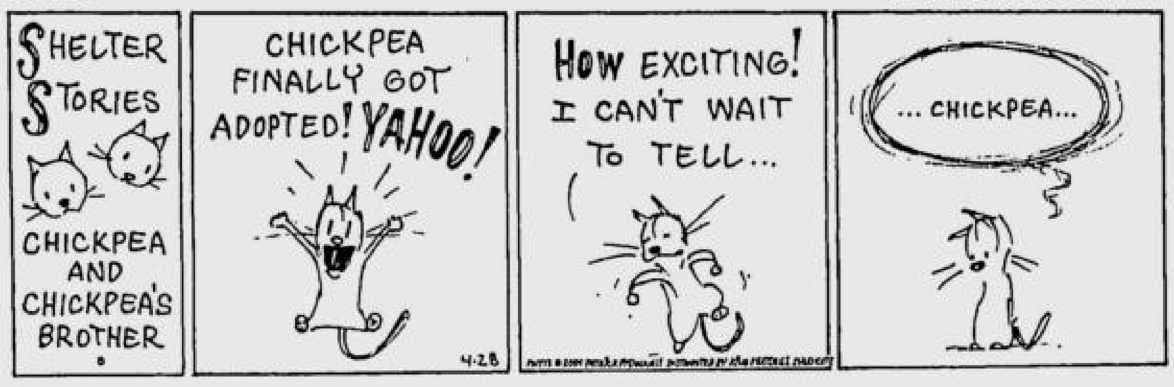
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SGT. SABAYBUNOT, ANG DIBISYONG ITO AY GINAGAMIT UPANG LUMAGAP NG IMPORMASYON NA MAPAPAKINABANGAN NG HUKBO...
E COLONEL... AKALA KO BA ANG TRABAHO NG MGA INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES E MAG-PROMOTE NG CHAOS SA PAMAMAGITAN NG PAGSISINUNGALING?
KAGAYA N'UNG MGA NAG-FEED NG INFO KAY GEORGE BUSH AT TONY BLAIR PARA GIYERAHIN NILA ANG IRAQ.
SA GANO'N KASI AKO MAGALING, SER...
I BELIEVE YOU, SOLDIER.
PALPROON

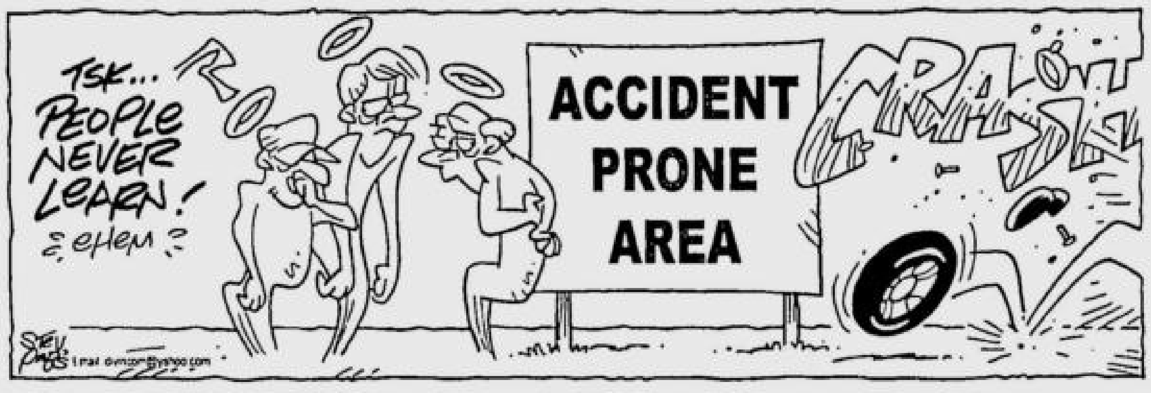
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHELTER STORIES
CHICKPEA AND CHICKPEA'S BROTHER
CHICKPEA FINALLY GOT ADOPTED! YAHOO!
4-28
HOW EXCITING! I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL...
...CHICKPEA...

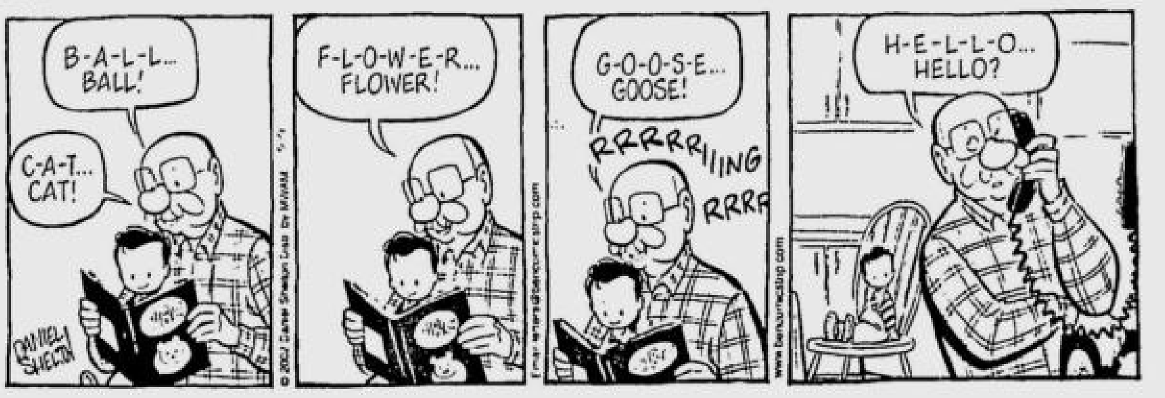
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


TSK... PEOPLE NEVER LEARN!
EHEM
ACCIDENT PRONE AREA
CRASH

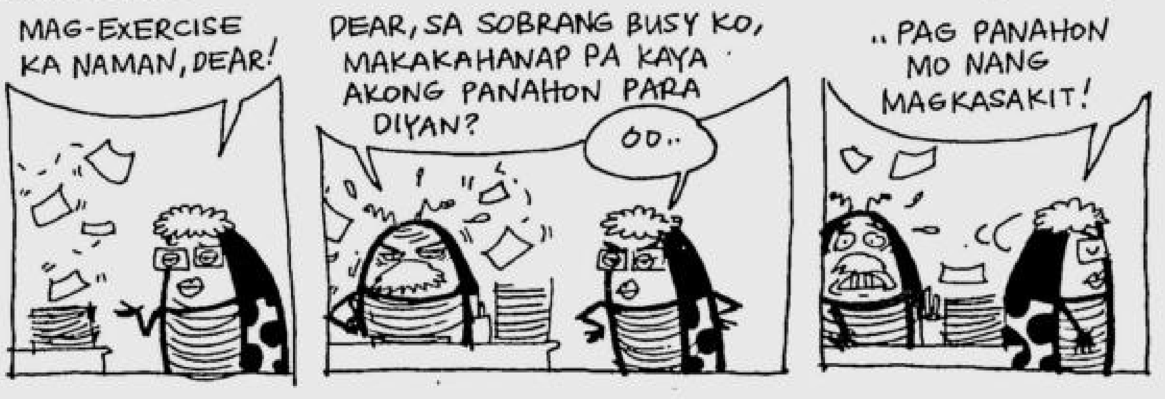
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


B-A-L-L... BALL!
C-A-T... CAT!
DANIEL SHELTON
F-L-O-W-E-R... FLOWER!
G-O-O-S-E... GOOSE!
RRRRRIIING
RRRR
H-E-L-L-O... HELLO?

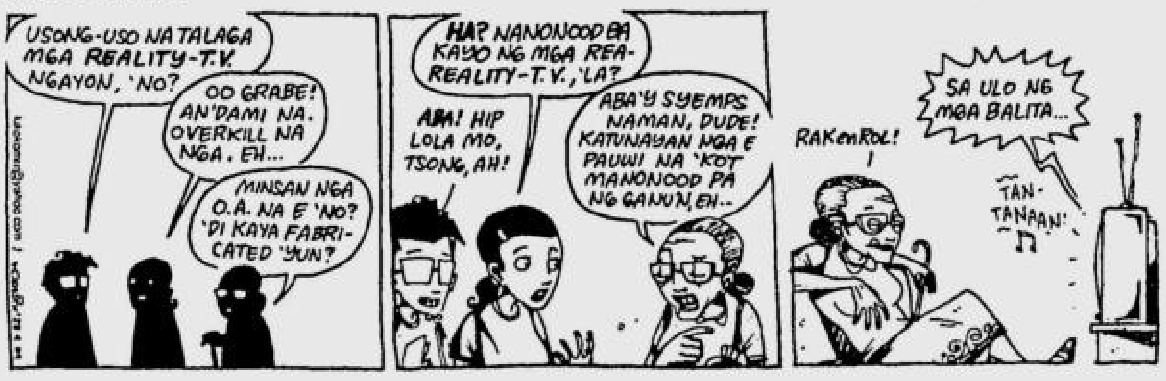
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MAG-EXERCISE KA NAMAN, DEAR!
DEAR, SA SOBRANG BUSY KO, MAKAKAHANAP PA KAYA AKONG PANAHON PARA DIYAN?
OO..
..PAG PANAHON MO NANG MAGKASAKIT!

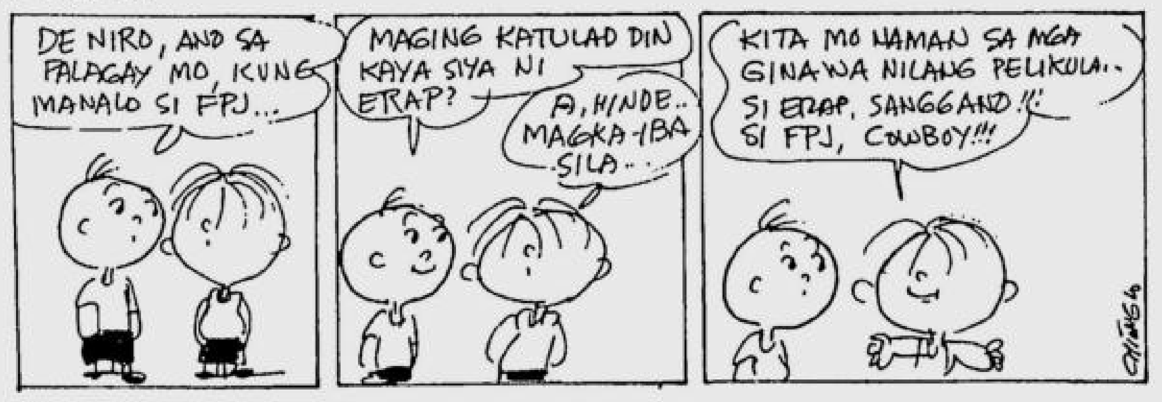
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


USONG-USO NA TALAGA MGA REALITY-T.V. NGAYON, 'NO?
OO GRABE! AN'DAMI NA. OVERKILL NA NGA. EH...
MINSAN NGA O.A. NA E 'NO? 'DI KAYA FABRICATED 'YUN?
HA? NANONOOD BA KAYO NG MGA REA-REALITY-T.V., 'LA?
ABA! HIP LOLA MO, TSONG, AH!
ABA'Y SYEMPS NAMAN, DUDE! KATUNAYAN NGA E PAUWI NA 'KOT MANONOOD PA NG GANU'N, EH...
RAKenROL!
SA ULO NG MGA BALITA...
TAN-TANAAN!

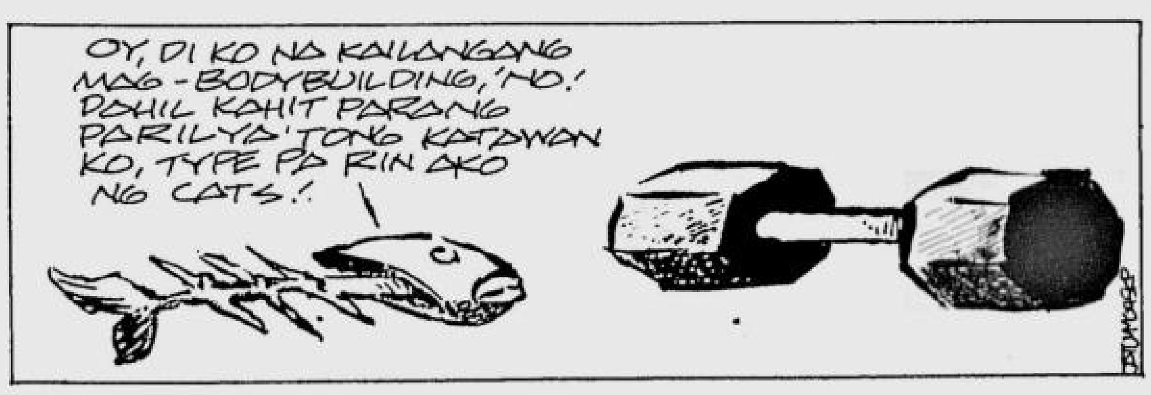
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, AND SA PALAGAY MO, KUNG MANALO SI FPJ...
MAGING KATULAD DIN KAYA SIYA NI ERAP?
A, HINDE.. MAGKA-IBA SILA..
KITA MO NAMAN SA MGA GINAWA NILANG PELIKULA.. SI ERAP, SANGGANO!! SI FPJ, COWBOY!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, DI KO NA KAILANGANG MAG-BODYBUILDING, 'NO! DAHIL KAHIT PARANG PARILYA 'TONG KATAWAN KO, TYPE PA RIN AKO NG CATS!

Dysfunctional is as dysfunctional does

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

JOYCE Bernal's latest film, "Masikip sa Dibdib," is a different kind of production as far as local movies go. It tells the story of a terribly troubled family made up of an absent father, a spaced-out mother, and combative siblings with all sorts of addiction—how dysfunctional can you get?

The only "normal" member of the family is Boobita Rose (**Rufa Mae Quinto**), the eldest daughter who works her fingers (and other parts of her anatomy) to the bone to pay for her loved ones' excesses. She's the Martyr of the Millennium!

The film exaggerates the family members' excesses and Boobita's travails to the point of black and even gross comedy. In addition, it interrupts its melodramatic scenes with musical performances by popular singers, thus adding to the intentional artificiality of its style of presentation.

This unusual approach could throw off some viewers, particularly since it's uneven and takes too long to make its point. But other moviegoers may see that there's method in the production's seeming madness.

The movie could be making a statement about how much show biz has affected and even messed up our lives. More, it could be equating the messy hysteria of its family of addicts and irresponsible slobs to the country's similarly dysfunctional state.

These and other satirical points are well-taken, but the movie fails to come together because it is so eclectic, sometimes looking like it's throwing in everything including the kitchen sink, to keep its action over-the-top.

Again, the intention is appreciated, but the finished film falls short of its commendable goal.

Feedback

FROM **Paul R. Mortel**: "On TV, I think what we have now is constant *gaya-gaya, puto-maya* in the kinds of shows the competing channels produce. This is unfair to us viewers! *Pare-pareho na ang mga* program!"

Gary Oldman

ACCLAIMED British actor **Gary Oldman** plays the ominous Sirius Black, the title character in "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," opening soon here.

In the third installment of the popular Potter franchise, Harry and his friends, Ron and Hermione, are focused to confront their darkest fears as they face Sirius, a dangerous escaped convict, and the equally terrifying Dementors who, it later turns out, have been sent to the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry to protect them.

'40 Days and 40 Nights'

JOSH Hartnett stars in the naughty romantic comedy, "40 Days and 40 Nights," which will be telecast on Star Movies at 10:50 p.m. on April 29.

In the film, Josh's character vows to refrain from sex for 40 days—and he quickly discovers that it's much easier said than done. —Especially when he falls hard for the woman of his dreams, played by sultry newcomer **Shannyn Sossamon**!

But wait, there's hope

WHEN **Billy Crawford**'s local fans learned that his first Hollywood film, "Exorcist: The Beginning," directed by the estimable **Paul Schrader**, had been nixed by its production company, they were stunned.

The golden opportunity for Billy to make it as an international film star, all those months of work on movie sets in different parts of the world—all for naught? It was a downbeat prospect too dismal to bear.

But wait, there's hope. A report intimates that, while Schrader's movie may never hit the big screen (its new version, megged by **Renny Harlin**, will hit theaters this August with a new cast), it may still be available for private viewing if plans push through to release it on DVD toward the end of the year.

All is not lost.

Hard Rock Café summer sizzlers

SHOW TIME

ACOUSTIC artist Jimmy Bondoc launched his first album under BMG Records Pilipinas in a mini-concert on Thursday before a jampacked crowd at Hard Rock Café.

Tomorrow, HRC and 96.3 WRock feature upcoming balladeer King in the monthly Literock at Hard Rock series. Closing the month of April on the 30th are rockers Jet Pangan, Jed Madela, Cookie Chua and Karl Roy in NU 107 Lounge Act.

On regular evenings, music buffs can enjoy performances by Fat Session on Mondays, Melt on Tuesdays, Mulatto on Wednesdays, Serenity on Thursdays, Passage on Fridays, Dimsum on Saturdays, and 9MM on Sundays.

As an added treat, HRC recently launched its latest consumer promo dubbed Rockin' and Surfin', which kicked off last April 1 and will run until May 15.

Save the Planet mugs and HRC bandanas will be given away to consumers who will avail themselves of HRC's daily lunch buffet. (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.). The same items will also be given away to those who will purchase bottles of Absolut Vodka, Jim Beam Black and Colt Ice Beers from 2 p.m. onward.

Aside from the freebies, consumers will also be given raffle stubs that give them the chance to win an all-expense three-day summer holiday at The Legend Hotel in Palawan.

Six winners will be chosen in the grand draw on May 15 at HRC.

Rockin' and Surfin' is supported by Mellow Touch 94.7, Lipton Ice Tea, Suriya Spa, Colt Ice, Gold's Gym, Jim Beam Black, Absolut Vodka and The Legend Hotel. For inquires and reservations call HRC at 893-4661 to 63.

Student . . .

From page A32

chest was crushed when the jeepney ran over him. He died at the Mary Mediatrix Medical Center in Lipa City.

An INQUIRER source said Vallenas and his classmates were required to watch the concert as part of a "hakot" crowd. Simultaneous with the concert was the proclamation rally of presidential candidate actor Fernando Poe Jr. which was going on in front of Levitown, in Barangay Marauoy, Lipa City.

"The attendance of the compulsory "hakot" crowd composed of students was even checked every hour to see if they were still at the plaza," the source said. "The crowd was only allowed to leave when the concert ended."

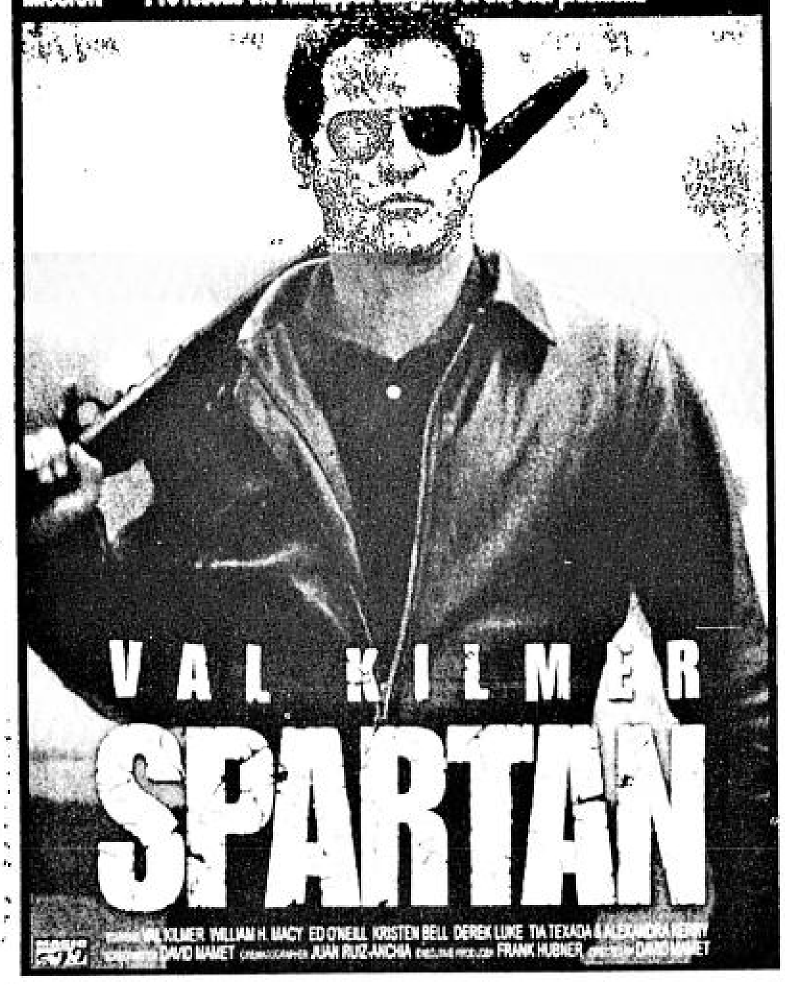
DID YOU KNOW...

To prove that actor **Jolo Revilla** is really sorry for hurting her feelings, **Rosanna Roces**' daughter, Grace, has ordered the young actor to have her name tattooed on his back. Jolo has yet to do the deed, according to Grace's mom. She said Jolo is a nice young man who is more obedient to her than her two children.

OPENS IN THEATERS MAY5!
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED
So much drama, so little time.

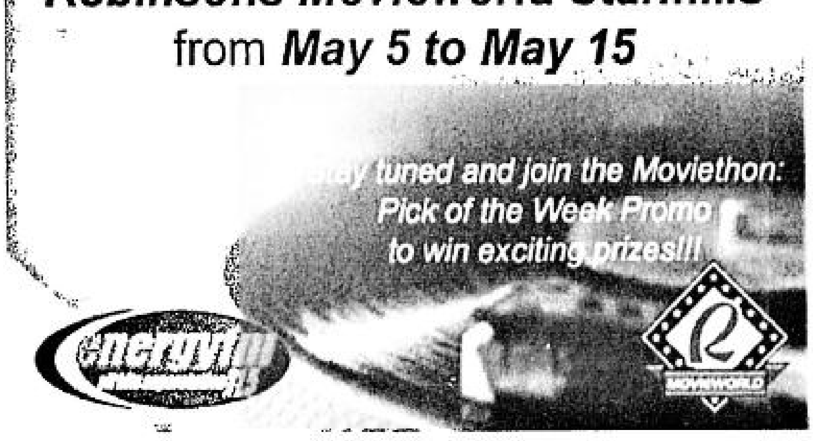
LINDSAY LOHAN
Walt Disney
CONFESSIONS of a TEENAGE DRAMAQUEEN
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG 13
WALANG TAKOT!
A man without fear.
He's given the most dangerous assignments and he never fails.
NAME : Robert Scott
CAREER : Military Officer working in a highly secretive special operations force.
EXPERIENCE : A man hardened by years of brutal service in the world of espionage.
MISSION : To rescue the kidnapped daughter of the U.S. president.



VAL KILMER
SPARTAN
VAL KILMER WILLIAM H. MACY ED O'NEILL KRISTEN BELL DEREK LUKE TIA TEXADA ALEXANDRA KERRY
DAVID MAMET JUAN RUIZ-ANCHIA FRANK HUBNER DAVID MAMET

Catch the cool jocks of 91.5 ENERGY FM
at
Robinsons Movieworld Starmills
from May 5 to May 15



Stay tuned and join the Moviethon:
Pick of the Week Promo
to win exciting prizes!!!

LIVE
Remote Broadcast
Schedules

ROBINSONS NOVALICHES
April 14 - April 24

ROBINSONS STARMILLS
PAMPANGA
May 5 - May 15

MALABON CITISQUARE
May 26 - June 5

ROBINSONS STA. ROSA
June 16 - June 26

ROBINSONS LIPA
July 7 - July 17

ROBINSONS DASMARIÑAS
July 28 - August 7

ROBINSONS IMUS
August 18 - August 28

ROBINSONS GALLERIA
Sept 8 - Sept 18

After X-Men & LXG comes a new
special-effects-packed comicbook adventure !
2ND 'ACTION SHOWDOWN' WEEK !
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
HERE TO PROTECT

HELLBOY
REVOLUTION STUDIOS Hellboy-Movie.com
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
OPENS TODAY !
More terrifying than "GOTHIKA"
One of the scariest movies you'll ever see
Based on a true story

HAUNTED SPIRIT
SCREAM ALL YOU CAN...
SHU CHI ATHENA CHU NICK CHEUNG TIFFANY LEE FRANCIS NG
www.incubus.com Directed by: Billy Chung

More movies on pages B8, B9 and B10.

MTRCB RATING

Oscar winner Denzel Washington stars as Creasy, a government operative / soldier of fortune, who has pretty much given up on life.

In Mexico City, he reluctantly agrees to take a job to protect Pita (Dakota Fanning) whose parents are threatened by a wave of kidnappings. He eventually becomes close to the child and their relationship reawakens and rekindles his spirit. When Pita was kidnapped and presumed dead, his fiery rage is unleashed on those he feels responsible, and he stops at nothing to save her.

DENZEL WASHINGTON
MAN ON FIRE
www.manonfiremovie.com

Kidnapping facts in Mexico City:
- a kidnapping occurs every six hours on average
- average asking price is around $280,000 and the final payment usually negotiated to about $19,000.
- about 80 or 90 percent of the 'kidnappable' people were kidnapped
- TAXI GRAB: As many as 4,000 'express' kidnappings occur in Mexico each year. Passengers in unlicensed taxis are driven to ATMs and forced to withdraw money

OPENS TODAY !

Ko-boom! Kazow! Ron Perlman plays the ultimate monster!

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent

PERLMAN plays a red-faced, Baby Ruth-eating, beer- and cigar-loving anti-hero. Blair is his love interest in the film.

LOS ANGELES—Beast? Neanderthal? Hunchback? Who is Hollywood going to call?

Ron Perlman.

Of course, Hollywood is crawling with monsters (of the ego variety), but when this town needs a startling visage, Ron Perlman is the one they call.

Now, Perlman has been called to play the ultimate monster—the son of the Evil One, no less. But fear not, although the son from hell did arrive during World War II (in case you didn't know, it happened in comic book genius Mike Mignola's world), the Allies snatched him from a secret Nazi lab, raised him in the US to fight...evil.

In "Hellboy," which scared up a No. 1 box-office spot when it opened, Perlman has created his most important and well-praised monster to date. Although he won a Golden Globe for his soulful monster, Vincent, in CBS' "Beauty and the Beast," Perlman scored a bigger feat with the commercial and critical success of the film adaptation of Mignola's cult Dark Horse Comics Series.

Teenage Satan

And what a sight Perlman is as Hellboy. He is "red as sin" (as one critic must have enjoyed typing that phrase), with a Hulk-like physique, a massive right arm made of stone, a twitchy tail, and horns that he files down to stumps "to fit in" but they end up looking like aviator goggles permanently stuck on his head.

In Prague, which substituted for New York, Perlman endured four hours each filming day to put on the latex costume designed by legendary makeup artist Rick Baker.

To complete this fashion statement, Hellboy sports an oversized coat, black leather pants, a rosary (yes, a rosary), a utility belt and a revolver.

In director Guillermo del Toro's fun adaptation with focus on the "Seed of Destruction" 1994 stories, Perlman's red-faced superhero loves beer, cigar, mountains of pancakes and Baby Ruth candy bars.

Although he was summoned up as a kind of "cute" Satan's tyke by the Nazis in 1944, Hellboy is only an adolescent now. (As to how Hitler's minions, led by that Russian Mad Monk, Grigori Rasputin, who was supposed to have died in 1916, succeeded in bringing the infant from Hades to earth, go ask Mignola and Del Toro.) I guess slow aging is one upside of being the horned one's offspring; he doesn't age like you and me.

When he's not fighting other monsters in "ka-boom, kazow!" sequences, Hellboy (HB) has an involving father-son relationship with his adoptive dad, Professor Broom (John Hurt of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone") and gets entangled in a love triangle with a pyrokineticist (she can't help playing with fire) Liz Sherman (Selma Blair) and a young FBI agent (Rupert Evans). Hellboy, Liz and a half-fish guy with Madam Auring's ESP powers are the not-so-secret assets of the Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense.

In his review of HB, LA Weekly's John Patterson described Perlman as having a "simian jawline and reptile eyes" (and this was from an adoring critic). Yahoo!, in its biography of Perlman, noted that he was a "profoundly unhandsome youth" in high school.

Black setting

Even Del Toro, who earned the 1993 Critic's Prize at the Cannes Film Festival for "Cronos," his first movie with Perlman, has been quoted as saying of his favorite actor: "...His exterior is extremely gruff and sort of, no pun intended, beastly."

Del Toro also cast Perlman in the vampire flick "Blade II." But what remains among the actor's memorable performances are his first movie roles, as a Neanderthal man in "Quest for Fire" and as a hunchback who speaks six languages ("sometimes all in the same sentence," he says) in "The Name of the Rose."

We meet Perlman in dramatic surroundings for this interview. Two-story tall black curtains hang from the ceiling of the cavernous Stage 6 at the Sony Pictures Studios, surrounding and separating us from the other groups of journalists. The space is furnished to look like Prof. Broom's study. A blowup photo of a bookcase eerily peels off halfway from the wood frame it is glued on to. The photo unglues completely toward the end of the interview.

Articulate beast

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Perlman, in the flesh, is personable, dignified even. He is, in typical Hollywood actor chic, dressed in all black. What is atypical about him is his vocabulary. This actor with a master's degree in fine arts is articulate. Words like "compendium" and "riveting" are delivered effortlessly in a booming voice. He throws in the "f" word occasionally.

INQUIRER Entertainment dares to ask the 6-foot-2 tall, mustachioed actor why he gets the beastly roles.

"It's totally coincidental," he replies as he shakes his iced coffee drink in a plastic cup. "You have to ask the people who offered those roles to me. I wish I can sit here and say, yes, this year I decided to do this role and that role. F--k, man, I'm a f-----g guy who's never really made a goddamn living. I have occasional periods where they've paid me and ten months later, the whole money is gone. I don't know what I'm going to do so I take every thing that comes my way. That's the story."

Meeting the character

When asked if he was aware of the HB character when it was offered to him by Del Toro, Perlman launches into a virtual narrative on the arduous journey it took to bring the scarlet hero to the screen.

"I learned about Hellboy on the same day that Guillermo met with Mignola six and a half years ago," Perlman begins. "Guillermo tied Mignola to a bed and made him listen to his pitch. Guillermo had his way with him obviously because he succeeded in getting the rights to the story. Guillermo took me to dinner and said, there's this movie that I just acquired the rights to. It's my favorite comic book character of all time. In a perfect world, you're the actor who plays him.

"I said, we all know that we are not living in a perfect world so let's just have dinner and change the subject. I absolutely refused to even think that I would be Hellboy.

"But I met Hellboy that night because after dinner, Guillermo took me to a comic book store called Meltdown on Sunset Boulevard. There was this incredibly beautiful sculpture of Hellboy by a renowned comic book artist, not Mignola, but someone else. I took a look at Hellboy and immediately banished him to the furthest recesses of my consciousness because I did not want to raise my hopes. I simply did not want to make my life, which can be rather hard, even harder.

DIRECTOR Del Toro shows Perlman how he wants him to shoot a gun.

"It would be like falling in love with a girl, only to watch her walk down the aisle with some other guy. So that was my initial introduction to Hellboy. It took Guillermo six years to find the studio that has enough faith in his ability as a filmmaker to let him make this film in a way that he wanted to. That was Joe Roth of Revolution."

Director lied

And while Perlman is perfect for the role, producers were at first suggesting Vin Diesel or The Rock since they have more marquee value.

"I was resigned to losing the role to either one of those guys," Perlman admits. "I should not say losing the role because I never thought I had the role. I said to Del Toro, I can see very clearly what's in your heart. I adore you for thinking that you can do this with me as Hellboy but I'm telling you as your friend and confidante that you're not going to pull this off. It just doesn't work this way. So, make the f----g movie with f-----g The Rock or Vin Diesel or whoever they're telling you to make it because this is too good a movie not to make. He said, yes, my friend, you're right, I will. He lied."

Del Toro resisted Universal's bait of greenlighting "Hellboy" as long as Vin Diesel or The Rock was the one who wore the horns, not Perlman. Roth's Revolution agreed to Perlman in the title role provided that the budget was pegged at $60 million.

Perlman is eloquent in his gratitude to Del Toro. "I didn't think I was capable of being surprised anymore in this life," he says.

"It (being offered the role that was promised to him by Del Toro from the get-go) was a magnificent gift and the most magnanimous act of friendship and faith that I've ever participated in or been a recipient of."

A night at the theater

And to think that this actor, who is touchingly expressive even under all the makeup he's had to wear for all those beastly roles over the years, almost quit acting. Also an accomplished stage actor, Perlman narrates about one magical evening that explains why he's still around.

"There was only one time when I thought about throwing in the towel and that was back in New York in the '70s," he starts in his deep voice. "I was living in a roach-infested apartment in Greenwich Village. Nothing was coming my way. It didn't look like anything would ever come my way. I thought, I don't think I could handle this. I don't think I have what it takes to get through this.

"Coincidentally, I had tickets to the theater that night to see 'Sweet Bird of Youth' with Christopher Walken and Irene Worth. Christopher was very, very good but Irene gave a performance that was so mind-boggling, so complex and so riveting that it was one of those nights—and I hope you all experience this—where I couldn't speak for two hours after I left the theater.

"The first thing I said after two hours of silence to my best friend who was with me at the show was, do you want to know something? If I could do to somebody what Irene did to me, it's all worth it. Whatever fires I have to walk through, whatever s--t I have to eat, it's all worth it because she blew my mind. I never ever had another moment like that since then."

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2 HELLBOY	2 STARSKY & HUTCH	2 SCHOOL OF ROCK GUARANTEED SEATS 3 MAN ON FIRE 1 30 4 30 7 30 10 30	6 STARSKY & HUTCH	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 STARSKY & HUTCH 12 35 2 40 4 45 6 50 8 55 11 10	2 PETER PAN
3 MAN ON FIRE	3 HELLBOY	4 BIG FISH	7 WHOLE 10 YARDS	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 SCHOOL OF ROCK 2 10 4 30, 6 50 9 10 11 30	3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
4 WHOLE 10 YARDS		GB1 GREENBELT 1		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 WHOLE 10 YARDS 1 05 3 10 5 15 7 20 9 25 11 30	4 DRAGON VS. NINJA
5 SCHOOL OF ROCK	4 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	1 IMAGINING ARDENTINA 11 30, 1 30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30 2 STARSKY & HUTCH 11 30, 1 30, 3 35, 5 40, 7 45, 9 50		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 HELLBOY 1 10 3 30, 5 50 8 10 11 30	5 TAKING LIVES

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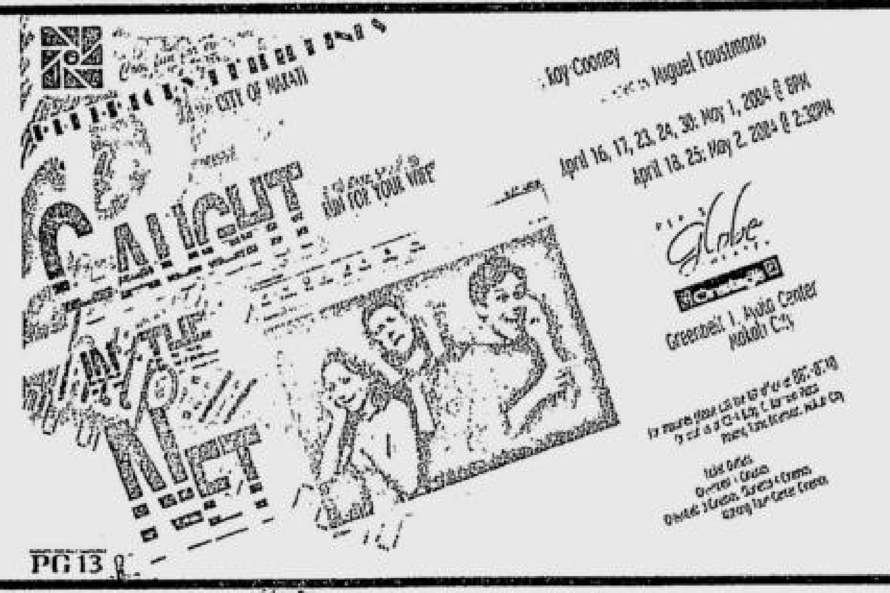
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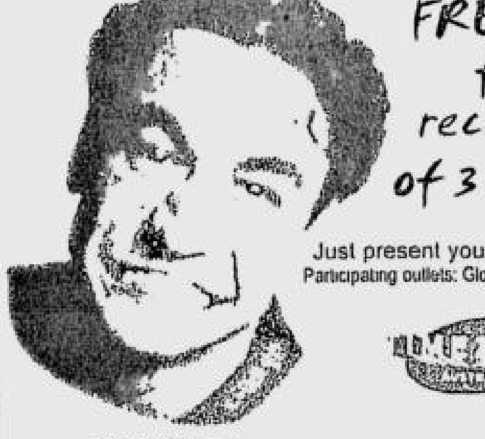

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Lito Lapid to speak only in Filipino even in Senate

HIGH school dropout Lapid values education.

By Nini Valera

THE SON of a laundrywoman, senatorial candidate Lito Lapid vows to speak Filipino even if he's giving speeches in senate.

He also promises to provide quality education to the poor.

Asking INQUIRER Entertainment to speak to him in Filipino, Lapid, 48, also requested this writer to repeat some of the questions.

"Ang hirap naman ng mga tanong!" he commented at one point during the exclusive interview with INQUIRER Entertainment yesterday.

He said that above all else, he values education, which he had been deprived of as a boy.

"High school graduate *lang ako*," he admitted. "*Kulang ang aking pinag-aralan.* Experience *lang ang aking pinagdaanan.*

"Kapag nakakakita ako ng batang hindi makapag-aral dahil sa kahirapan, parang nakikita ko ang sarili ko.

"Bagama't nanggaling lang ako sa hirap, gusto ko ipakita sa mga mahihirap na tulad ko na pwede rin silang mamayagpag. Gusto kong maging inspirasyon nila."

Agriculture is another focus in his campaign. He said the country has to be self-sufficient in food production. Health, he said, is another emphasis.

"Bawal talaga magkasakit, lalo na sa mahihirap. Kailangan ng kalusugan.

"Kasama na rin sa plataporma ko ang kalusugan at ang peace and order *para pumasok ang mga* foreign investors *sa bansa."*

Poverty

Asked what makes him the right person for the job, Lapid cited his achievements as three-term governor of Pampanga, specifically his role in the *lahar* tragedy that hit the province after Mt. Pinatubo's explosion.

"Tinggnan na lang nila ang progreso sa Pampanga *ngayon. Lahat ng ginawa ko doon, gusto kong ulitin sa senado,"* said Lapid.

His poverty is the main thing that shaped the man he has become. Which is why when *lahar* buried Pampanga, he was able to stir the province back on its feet.

Lapid banks on his 12-year experience as governor of the province to help him in the senate if ever he wins. He is the only governor of Pampanga who has served three terms.

In politics, he looks up to Ninoy Aquino as the embodiment of a statesman, who was even willing to die for the country.

"Ang gusto kong leader *ay tulad ni* Ninoy—*paninindigan (ang pinairal), hindi pera,"* he pointed out.

He confessed that he has never read a book in his life, *"kaya't kulang ang salita ko."*

"Kadalasan, bibliya ang binabasa ko," he said.

But the biggest thing he has achieved in his life is as a family man and not as a politician or an actor.

*"Ang pagtayo ng pamilya ko, iyan ang pinaka-*achievement *ko,"* he said. *"Lahat ng anak ko nakatapos na, pwera na lang ang bunso. Pwede kang may pera, kotse, bahay. Pero pag nakatapos na ang mga anak mo, tapos na ako sa buhay. Parang ako na ang naka-*graduate."

Student killed in Vilma concert

By Mei Magsino,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SAN JOSE, Batangas—A college student who watched a band concert in Lipa's Plaza Independencia on Thursday night was killed on his way home from the concert, a project of Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos.

San Jose police said Rey Vallenas, 17, a second year Associate Computer Technology student of Lipa City Public College was with six of his classmates when they boarded a jeepney bound for Cuenca, Batangas, at about 11 p.m. Thursday night.

But the jeepney driver then shouted that his brakes were not working. The vehicle was already near the Pinagtung-Ulan bridge in this town when the jeepney swerved and Vallenas shouted to his classmates that they should jump out of the jeepney.

Vallenas, who was sitting beside the driver, jumped out, but his leg was caught. He also didn't see that the jeepney that was already out of control was going toward him. His

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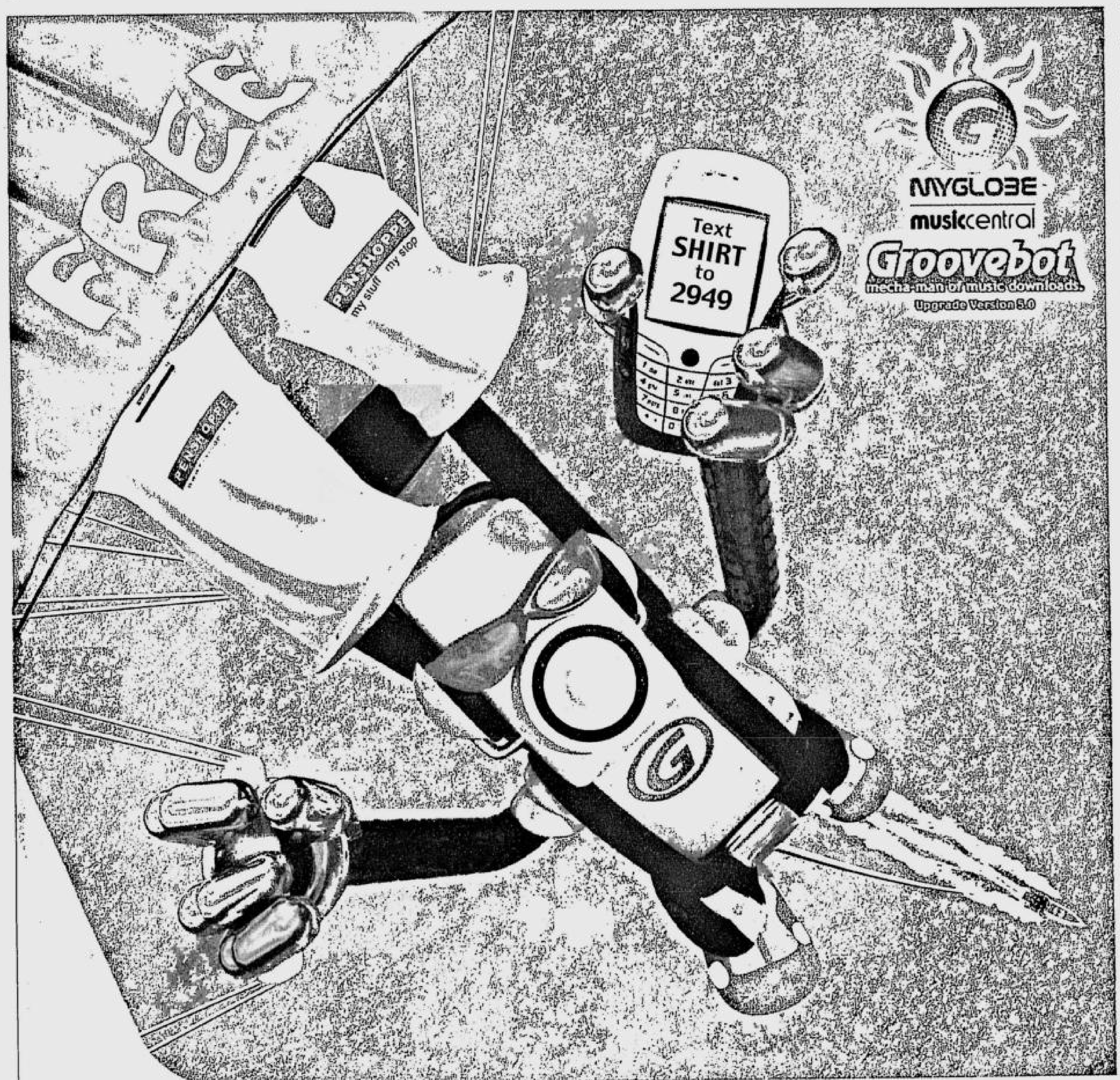

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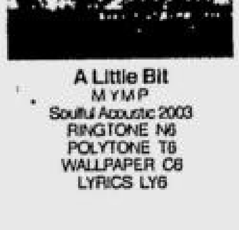

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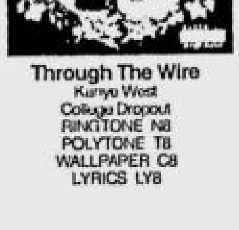

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Kanye West
College Dropout
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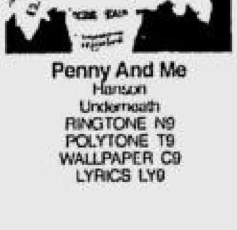

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Hanson
Underneath
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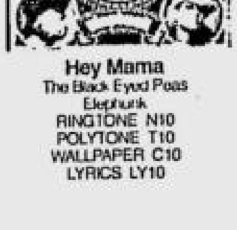

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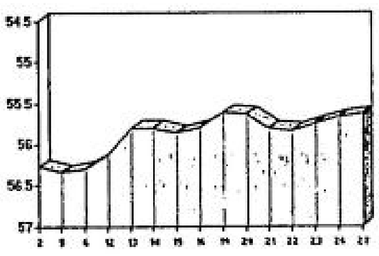

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GOLD: $399.70-400.20
per ounce Hong Kong, April 27, 2004

April 27, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.842105	1.000000	55.6600
Japan	Yen	0.007753	0.009207	0.5125
United Kingdom	Pound	1.505263	1.787500	99.4923
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.107987	0.128235	7.1376
Switzerland	Franc	0.644649	0.765521	42.6089
Canada	Dollar	0.624568	0.741675	41.2816
Singapore	Dollar	0.496818	0.589971	32.8378
Australia	Dollar	0.617696	0.733514	40.8274
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.233760	2.652590	147.6432
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.224556	0.266660	14.8423
Brunei	Dollar	0.495356	0.588235	32.7412
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000098	0.000116	0.0065
Thailand	Baht	0.021255	0.025240	1.4049
UAE	Dirham	0.229275	0.272264	15.1542
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.187500	66.0963
Argentina	Peso	0.297039	0.352734	19.6332
Brazil	Real	0.289384	0.343643	19.1272
Denmark	Kroner	0.134367	0.159561	8.8812
India	Rupee	0.019126	0.022712	1.2641
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.221636	0.263193	14.6493
Mexico	New Peso	0.074671	0.088672	4.9355
New Zealand	Dollar	0.530193	0.629604	35.0438
Norway	Kroner	0.121362	0.144117	8.0216
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014714	0.017473	0.9725
South Africa	Rand	0.125057	0.148505	8.2658
Korea	Won	0.000730	0.000867	0.0483
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025518	0.030303	1.6867
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000440	0.000522	0.0291

By Doris C. Dumlao

FINANCIAL markets continued to cheer recent poll surveys showing President Macapagal-Arroyo taking the lead over action star Fernando Poe Jr.

The peso yesterday hit a new three-month high of 55.54 before closing at 55.63 to the US dollar as investors were encouraged to bet that Ms Macapagal would get a fresh six-year term as president, traders said.

Stocks also rose to their highest levels in more than three years yesterday on optimism that President Macapagal will win the May 10 national elections, analysts said.

The main stock index rose 1.59 percent, or 25.03 points, to 1,596.93, its highest level since March 9, 2001. The market is up 10.72 percent so far this year.

"A victory by President Macapagal is becoming more evident," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan. "Interest rates are going down, the peso is getting stronger, and the stock market is firming up. These are indications that the political situation is improving."

"The (financial) market is happy with the recent surveys which revealed the turning of the tide in favor of the incumbent, so to simply put it, confidence is high for GMA," Chinatrust Commercial Bank Philippines executive vice president and treasurer Roland Avante said.

"Then, we are seeing some bargain-hunting in the stock market, so there are (dollar) flows coming in," Avante said.

Despite some correction later during the day, the local currency gained ground from the 55.67 closing on Monday. Total value turnover at the Philippine Dealing System stood at $167 million yesterday.

Avante said the peso would likely breach its next resistance of 55.40 against the dollar and strengthen to the 54 levels over the near term.

Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas agreed: "This was brought about by OFW (overseas Filipino worker) remittances and improving political sentiment following the recent survey results."

Ravelas said the market would next test the minor dollar support level at 55.25 and then the major psychological support at 55 to $1.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco said corporate demand for dollar was small. "The peso strengthened because of OFW remittances, dollar inflows from equities and retail accounts and exporters as well as banks' short-selling in anticipation of more OFW remittances."

Turnover at the stock exchange jumped 142 percent to P778.33 million from Monday's P321.56 million. Gainers beat losers 35 to 17 and there were 39 stocks unchanged.

On Monday, the yield on the

STOCKS/B2

Ford unit in RP to export 16,000 cars to Asean

By Abigail L. Ho

FORD Motor Co. Philippines has committed to export 16,000 completely built-up (CBU) units of Ford and Mazda models this year to countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) region.

Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima said the move was seen to generate about $220 million in export revenues for the country.

The company likewise committed to jack up the production level and export number to 33,000 units by next year and to 40,000 units in 2006, he added.

At the same time, Ford also plans to export completely knocked-down (CKD) kits to Vietnam and Malaysia.

These initiatives are part of the company's recent participation in the government's automotive export program (AEP), which requires firms to export at least 10,000 CBUs a year with a minimum freight on board value of $5,000 a unit.

"Ford's CBU export program is a solid proof of the country's capability to provide the necessary infrastructure to firms who would like to make the Philippines their manufacturing hub in Asia," Purisima said in a statement yesterday.

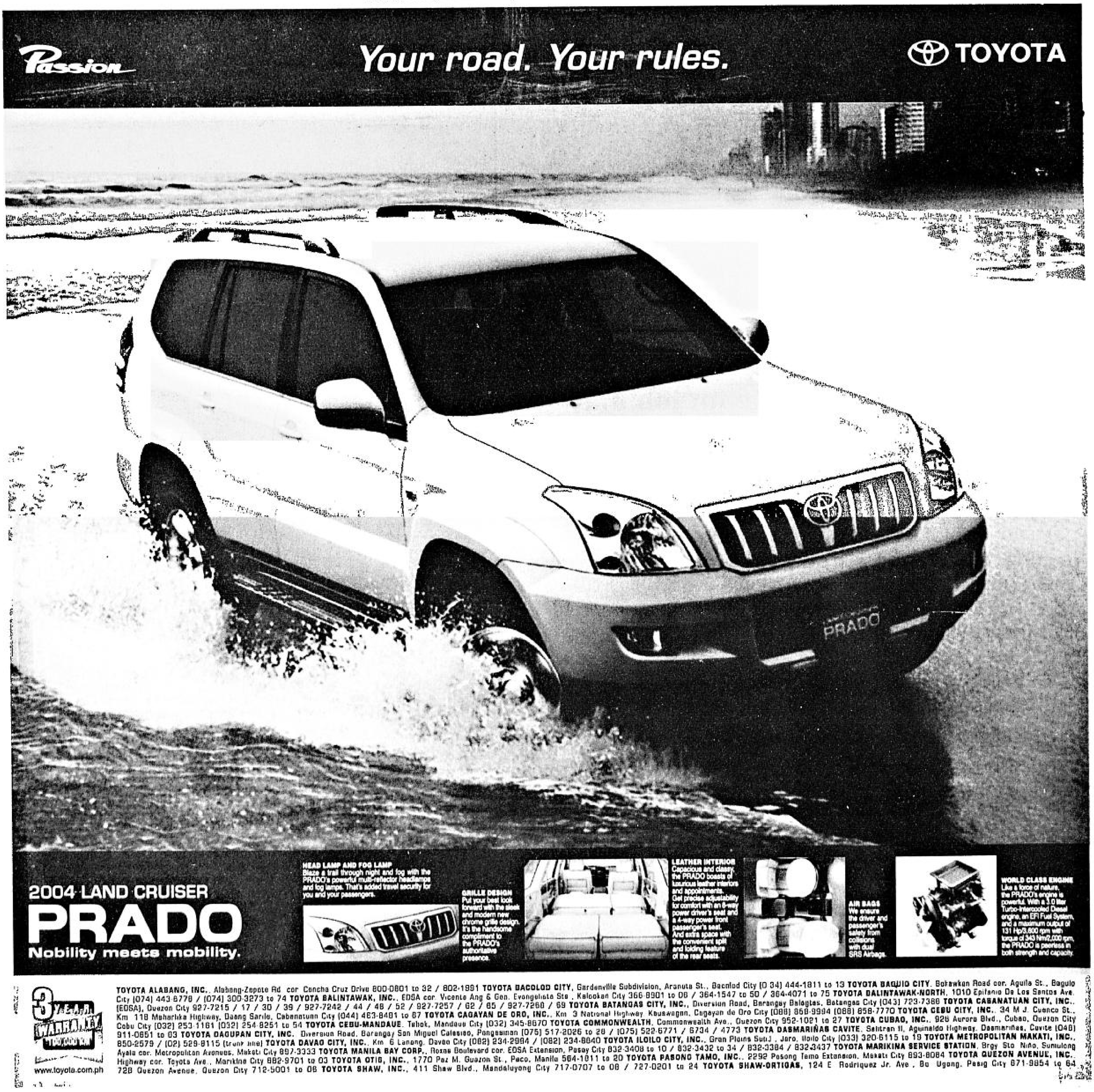
Last year, Ford exported 13,327 vehicles consisting of Ford Lynx and Escape and Mazda Protege and Tribute to Thailand. These vehicle exports were valued at around $190 million.

Exports in 2003 were a five-fold increase from the 2,785 vehicles that the company exported the year before.

While benefiting the economy as a whole, Purisima said Ford's vehicle export activities likewise jacked up the revenues of local parts manufacturers, with the car giant buying some $260 million worth of components last year.

Of all vehicle components bought here, 10 percent was used in local manufacturing activities, with the remaining 90 percent shipped to various plants all over the world.

Factoring in these component exports, Ford's total exports from the Philippines amounted to $450 million in 2003, making it the country's largest exporter of automotive products.



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ABS-CBN turns to debt market to raise $120M

Execs seek funding for planned merger between network's cable unit and PLDT subsidiary

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

TELEVISION giant ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. plans to raise $120 million from the debt market to pay off debts and fund investments in the cable television business.

Randolph Estrellado, ABS-CBN vice-president and chief operating officer, said that the company is now holding talks with a syndicate of private banks for the loan, of which US$90 million will go to debt refinancing, while US$30 million will be invested in Beyond Cable Holdings Inc.

Beyond Cable will be the product of a pending merger between ABS-CBN Sky Vision Corp. and Central CATV Inc. and Home Cable, a subsidiary of dominant fixed line carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. The Lopez Group will own two-thirds of the company with PLDT getting the balance.

The $30-million ABS-CBN investment in Beyond Cable will be used to purchase "set-up" boxes that protect cable signals from piracy, Estrellado said during an interview.

The investment may be converted into equity after two years, but it has yet to be known how much ABS-CBN will hold in Beyond Cable after the conversion.

ABS-CBN earlier proposed to raise $150 million from the bond market to refinance debts and to invest in the cable business.

ABS-CBN deferred its $150-million global bond float to avoid paying a higher risk premium amid recent unfavorable domestic events which unsettled most investors.

ABS-CBN earlier said that despite its deferment of the $150-million global bond float, the company could still finance maturing debts as well as capital expenditure using internally generated cash.

The bond float was meant to broaden the company's sources of funding.

Estrellado yesterday said ABS-CBN had already settled $30 million in debt last October. Total outstanding debt of the company is now estimated at $87 million, which is payable over the next three years.

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$20M sought for dev't of assets

By Abigail L. Ho

CANADIAN firm Forum Energy Corp. will transfer its existing petroleum assets and potential coal mining business in the Philippines into a special purpose vehicle (SPV) which the firm plans to use to raise $20 million.

This initiative would come as a result of an agreement between the company and corporate finance advisor AIAK Group, which would help Forum Energy raise cash for the development of the Canadian firm's petroleum and coal assets.

Under the proposed agreement, Forum Energy's petroleum assets and the yet-to-be-acquired Manguerra Mining and Development Corp. in Cebu would be placed in an SPV that AIAK clients could invest in.

In a statement posted on the company's official website, Forum Energy president and chief executive David Robinson explained that third-party engineering firms would have to conduct a valuation of the assets.

After valuation, interested AIAK clients would be given a chance to acquire a minority stake in the SPV in exchange for $20 million.

Robinson said Forum Energy would retain majority interest in the SPV, the exact percentage of which would be determined by the independent valuation.

The company's securities would continue to be traded on exchanges where it is listed, including the NASDAQ and Frankfurt exchanges, with the same number of shares and share certificates held by existing investors.

The Canadian firm also plans to have the new SPV listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange, Robinson said.

Right now, Forum Energy is into oil and gas. exploration, owning 66.66 percent of local firm Forum Exploration Inc. Its Philippine arm is involved in the development of the Maya Gas Field in Cebu.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 27, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17	17	17	74,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	49	46	48.5	1,170,700
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	90
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	40.5	40.5	40	40	15,100
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	1,090,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	24.75	25.5	24.5	24.75	485,300
Philippine National Bank	23	23.5	23	23.5	3,200
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	14,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.25	24.25	24.25	24.25	17,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	205	210	205	210	460
Manulife Financial Corp.	2155	2165	2155	2165	280
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	725,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1500	1500	1500	1500	860
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24	25	24	25	60,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	1,240,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	920	920	905	905	62,100
Ipeople Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	66,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.037	0.037	0.035	0.037	1,700,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	7,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.8	1.86	1.8	1.8	16,460,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1140	1165	1140	1160	116,260
Ivantage Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	80,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	17,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	20	20.25	20	20	169,900
Manila Electric Co. B	31	32	31	32	1,623,000
Petron Corp.	3.35	3.45	3.35	3.4	4,635,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	10,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.96	0.99	0.96	0.99	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3	3	3	3	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1.66	1.68	1.66	1.68	153,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	27.5	28	27.5	28	506,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	20.25	20.25	20	20	236,500
San Miguel Corp. A	58.5	59.5	58.5	59.5	94,500
San Miguel Corp. B	74	74.5	74	74.5	330,600
Universal Robina Corp.	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.7	578,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.8	2,512,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.95	3	2.95	2.95	553,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1	1	1	1	40,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	20,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.57	0.59	0.57	0.58	14,410,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	700,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	800,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	11,100,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	510,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	26	28.5	26	28.5	6,394,300
Ionics Inc.	1.3	1.38	1.3	1.38	21,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	10,000
Medco Holdings	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.2	6,909,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	6,490,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.17	0.175	0.17	0.17	16,720,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.83	0.83	70,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15	15	15	3,700
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	15,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	1,300,000
Weltex Industries Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	7,000,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.235	80,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	25,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	3,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	900,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	410,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24.25	25	24.25	25	503,100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,900
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	405	405	405	405	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	3,316,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	30,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.185	0.15	0.185	4,640,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.125	0.13	0.125	0.13	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	7,720,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	2,357,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	20,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	4,300,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.075	0.075	500,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	36,000,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.84	1.88	1.84	1.88	40,000
SM Development Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.4	6.1	6.4	15,133,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	800,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	30,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	50,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	4,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000

DISCLOSURES

ISM Communications Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 27 at 3 p.m. at the Enterprise Center, Makati City. Record date is on April 19.

* * *

FILINVEST Development Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 4 at 1:30 p.m.

* * *

ATLAS Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. entered into an assignment and settlement agreement with Mitsubishi Materials Corp., Alakor Corp. and Minoro Mining and Exploration Corp. The agreement provides, among others, the transfer of all rights and interests Mitsubishi may have over the loans and advances owed by Atlas amounting to $71.4 million including interest.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **San Miguel Pure Foods Company Inc.** were Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr., Ramon S. Ang, Enrique A. Gomez Jr., Francisco S. Alejo III, Leo S. Alvez, Jose T. Pardo, Menardo R. Jimenez, Ma. Belen C. Buencuceso and Roberto N. Huang. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

Peso, stocks cheer . . .

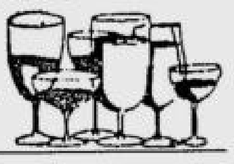
From page B1

benchmark 91-day treasury bill fell for the first time this year at the government auction. The benchmark paper—which banks use to set their lending rates—fetched an average rate of 7.161 percent versus the previous accepted rate of 7.658 percent on April 12.

"It's likely for the market to succumb to slight profit-taking tomorrow before testing the 1,600 resistance level," Vistan said. Analysts also expected the market to take a cue from first-quarter results announcements in the next few days. *With a report from Reuters*

The Tanyus are back

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

ASIAWORLD City, at 120 hectares the biggest property privatization deal before Fort Bonifacio, is moving, although quite gingerly, again.

The Filipino-Taiwanese family Tanyu held cocktails last night at The Peninsula Manila to launch a 10-ha subdivision within their bayside property, now reduced in half after a series of dacion en pago to eliminate Asiaworld's debts totaling P13 billion.

The residential lots come in 300-square-meter chunks at P25,000 per sq.m., or P7.5 million a piece. The kicker is that the height restriction has been stretched up to four floors, thereby giving the buyer the option to build a townhouse or condo on the property.

The commercial lots come in 1,000- and 1,200-sq.m. cuts, and are being offered at P35,000 per sq.m.

The price has crashed mightily down from P100,000 per sq.m., then at P26-$1 exchange rate, when Asiaworld was launched in 1988 amid a blaze of publicity.

Unlike the go-go days before the 1997 currency crisis hit the region when the Tanyus shouldered all development costs, Asiaworld Properties has now gone into a number of joint ventures to finish delayed projects.

The 10-ha subdivision, for instance, was developed by Santa Lucia Realty of Exequiel Robles

COCKTALES/ B4

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Deposit Amount (In pesos)	Term / Current Interest Rates (%)				
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300,000 - 499,999	5.50	5.75	5.75	6.00	7.00
500,000 - 999,999	6.00	6.25	6.50	6.50	8.00
1,000,000 - 4,999,999	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	8.00
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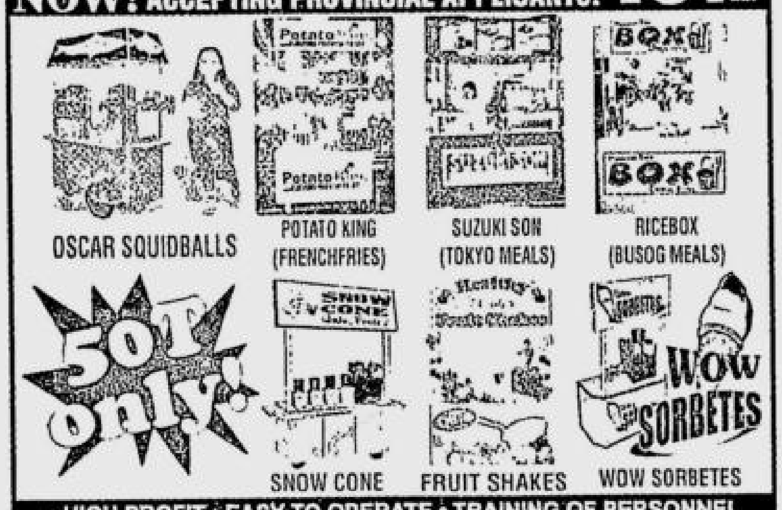

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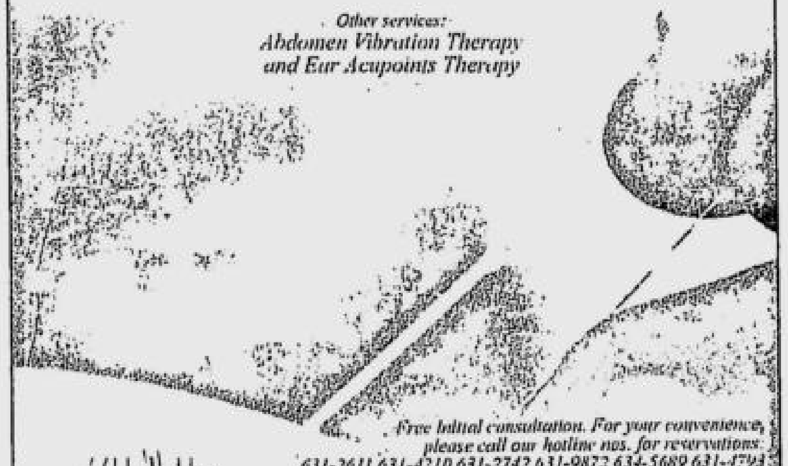

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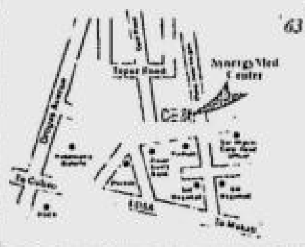

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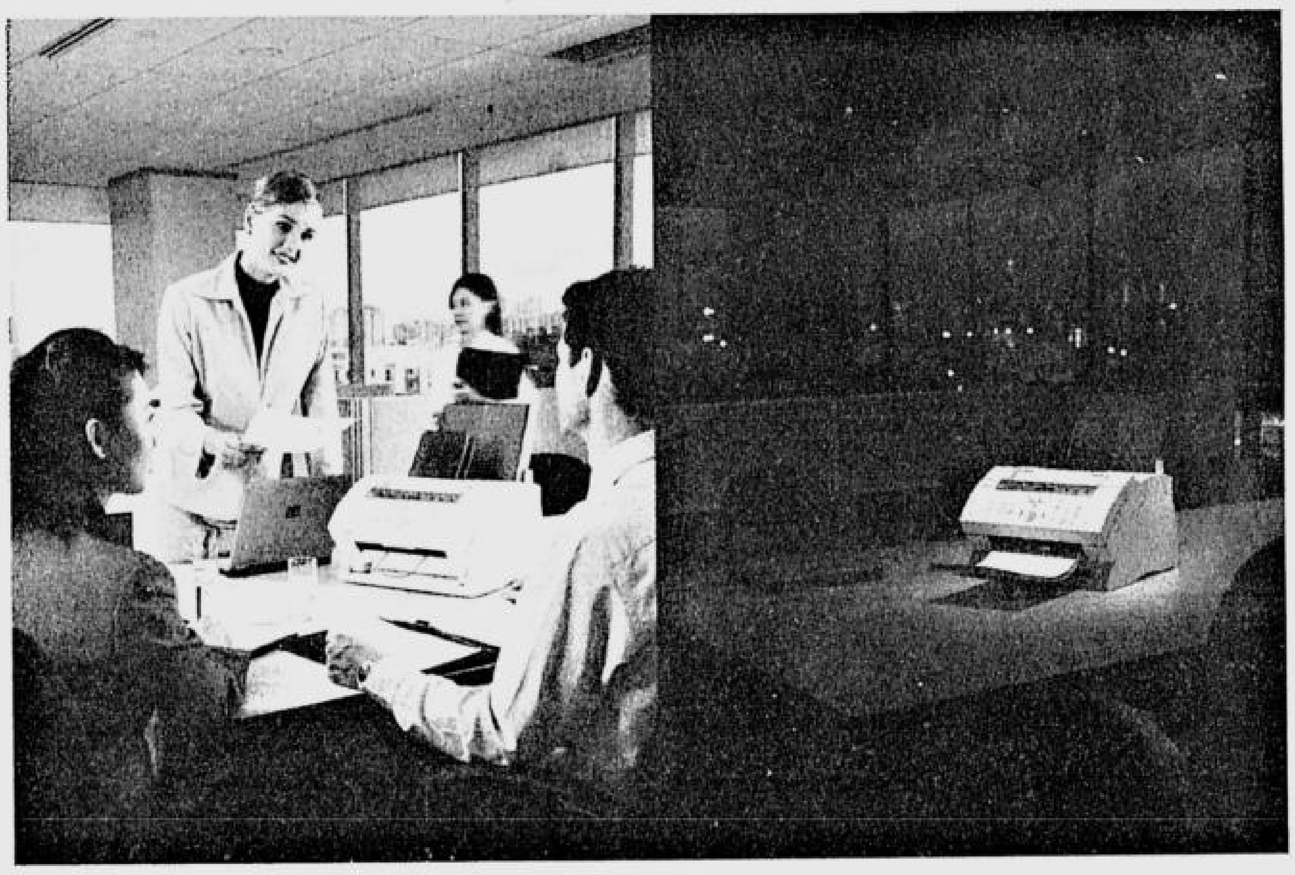

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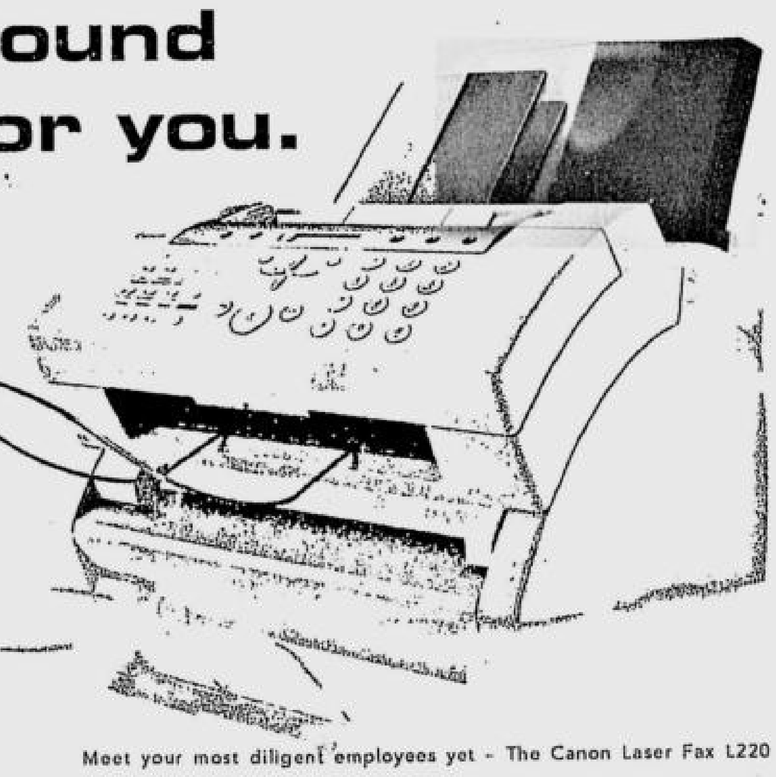

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T-bond yield down 145 basis points to 10.425%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE YIELD of the five-year treasury bond went down by 145 basis points in yesterday's auction to 10.425 percent from 11.875 percent, following the decline in the benchmark 91-day Treasury bill rate for the first time this year.

Rates of government debt papers, particularly Treasury bonds with tenors of two years to seven years, have started to fall at the secondary market since last week as the market cheered opinion polls showing President Macapagal-Arroyo now leading the race for the May 10 national elections.

The 91-day T-bill—which banks use to set their lending rates—fetched an average rate of 7.161 percent on Monday, down from the previous accepted rate of 7.658 percent on April 12.

The Treasury also accepted bids for the one-year paper for the first time since February.

The paper fetched an average of 8.897 percent, against 8.384 percent on Feb. 2.

Yesterday's bond issue was oversubscribed, with the value of the tenders reaching P7.972 billion against the government's P3.5-billion offering.

The Bureau of Treasury's auction committee, however, decided to accept only P3.01 billion worth of bids, out of the budgeted P3.5 billion, to keep rates from hitting the secondary market rate of 10.425 percent.

"We thought that we shouldn't allow the rate to be higher than the secondary market rate. Now that the market is calm, we should just keep it that way," Deputy Treasurer Eduardo Mendiola said in a briefing after the auction.

Mendiola said the declining interest rates for government securities indicated that the market was adjusting to the Treasury's decision to reject previous bids for T-bills and bonds due to high interest rates.

The treasury official also attributed the improving rates to higher liquidity in the market.

The BTr likewise linked the declining rates to easing political uncertainties after latest surveys showed that Ms Macapagal is leading rival Fernando Poe Jr. in the race for the presidency.

"You may compare the movement of the rates with the headlines," said Mendiola. *With a report from Reuters.*

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE SCRAP/JUNK ITEMS
"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : May 18 and 19, 2004, 2:00 PM, Solarium Multi-Purpose Rooms, Bldg.-1 Ground Floor, NPC-HO, Agham Road, corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the following scrap and junk items:

Schedule-I, May 18, 2004, 2:00 PM Solarium Multi-Purpose Rooms

	Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1.	One (1) lot of scrap metals consisting of 1-unit Terex Payloader, 1 unit Clark Forklift, 1 unit Bulldozer, 1-unit moveable centrifuge, 1-unit lube oil heater, 1-set turbine casing, 3-units turbine rotors, one (1) lot assorted scrap metals and one (1) lot unserviceable GPE located at Cebu Power Plant Complex, Naga, Cebu.	P 586,500.00/lot
2.	One (1) lot scrap metals consisting of pipes, plant parts, steel plate cuttings, steel frames, radiators, aluminum cladding, 300 pcs. used tires, 76 pcs. used batteries and other scrap items located at the Tongonan GPP	P 336,800.00/lot
3.	Waste Lube Oil, approximately 80 drums, net of water and drums not included located at Tongonan GPP, Leyte	P 300.00/drum

Schedule-II, May 19, 2004, 2:00 PM, Solarium Multi-Purpose Rooms

	Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1.	One (1) lot unserviceable condenser tubes, 865 pcs.located at Batangas Coal-Fired Thermal Power Plant, Calaca, Batangas	P 351,840.00/lot P 196,000.00/lot
2.	One (1) lot structural Steel and junk items at the 2nd floor level of the Blaisdell Bldg. (to be dismantled and clean-up basis) at Manila Thermal Power Plant, Isla De Provisor	P 724,000.00/lot
3.	One (1) lot junk and scrap metals located at the Malaya Thermal Power Plant (KEPHILCO), Pililia, Rizal.	P 695,000.00/lot
4.	One (1) lot junk and scrap items located at the Lubang DPP, Lubang Island, Occidental Mindoro.	

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2003 ORIGINAL OR XEROX COPY OF THE BIDDER OR AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (ORIGINAL) OF THE COMPANY.
3. BIDDERS FOR ITEM-3, SCHEDULE-1 MUST PRESENT PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PERMIT TO TRANSPORT AND ACCREDITATION AS WASTE OIL TREATER.

All interested parties who wish to secure bid forms for this public bidding must present a valid Tax Identification Card or Income Tax Return.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/set from Mr. S.V. Lomuntad, Jr. at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C. or call telephone no. 924-5384. Deadline for issuance of bid forms is 4:30 PM May 17, 2004 for Schedule-1 and May 18, 2004 for Schedule-II.

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI – April 26, 27 & 28, 2004)

Octopus exporters reeling from tainted shipments

By Christine A. Gaylican

LOCAL exporters of processed octopus are closing ranks to prevent unscrupulous traders from bringing down the P2-billion industry.

This came after the United States banned the entry of two shipments of processed octopus believed to be contaminated with salmonella.

The Chamber of Philippine Octopus Processors and Exporters Inc. said additional shipments of contaminated products could lead to the total ban of Philippine exports to the US and European markets.

"We believe (the contamination) could be attributed to the water injected to the octopus to increase its weight," said AA Export & Import Corp. marketing manager Vince Victoria in an interview yesterday.

Chamber president Susan de los Reyes said that US and European buyers have raised their grave concern and government authorities are now closely watching Philippine shipments.

"The industry association is now tracing where the tainted shipments could have originated. It could be from unscrupulous suppliers and exporters. We have temporarily stopped buying from Zamboanga—the biggest source of frozen octopus—for a week," said De los Reyes.

The Philippines is the top exporter of frozen octopus to the United States, cornering more than 50 percent of the total market share valued at $27 million.

The country exports whole, gutted and frozen octopus meat to the US, South America, European Union, Western Europe, Japan, Australia, Thailand, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Middle East and Africa.

Octopus exporter Mario Antonio Salazar of Sapiens Export International said that buyers are turning to Indonesia for octopus supply.

The exporters have sought the help of the Departments of Trade and Agriculture to put a stop to the shipment of frozen octopus by unscrupulous traders.

Meralco back to profit in Q1

THE MANILA Electric Co. (Meralco), the country's largest private electric utility, said on Tuesday it returned to profit in the first quarter as better sales helped the largest power distributor in the Philippines to recover from losses a year earlier.

Meralco, 25 percent owned by the government, said it had a net income of P344 million for the first three months of the year.

It reported a net loss of P325.1 million a year earlier, reflecting the effects of a P30-billion refund scheme to consumers for years of overbilling.

Analysts see the company—which supplies power to about four million homes and businesses in and around Manila—staging a recovery this year as electricity use soars thanks to the country's general election on May 10 and an improving economy.

Reuters Research, a unit of Reuters Plc, forecasts Meralco's net income will reach P4.158 billion in 2004—a leap from the P907 million in 2003.

Meralco's B-shares, which are open to foreign investors, were flat in the first quarter as the main stock index fell 2.7 percent. *Reuters*

DOE PROPOSAL

DOF urged to scrap excise tax on natural gas

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy has asked the Finance department to reduce, if not totally remove, the excise tax imposed on natural gas.

The DOE said the move would encourage the use of environment-friendly natural gas.

The DOE came out with the proposal in response to a Malacañang directive to reduce the cost of using natural gas, thus, promoting its use.

The recently issued Executive Order No. 290 seeks to promote the use of natural gas through the implementation of the Natural Gas Vehicle Program for Public Transport.

The EO mandates government agencies to promote the use of natural gas by installing needed infrastructure and granting incentives to those who would choose to use natural gas to run their vehicles.

The government advocated the use of natural gas to address the serious problem on air pollution.

Natural gas, unlike other fuel types, is a clean burning alternative fuel for vehicles.

It produces substantially less air pollutants than ordinary fuels, thus reducing air pollution especially in urban areas.

An official from the DOF said the department was studying the proposal to scrap the 2-percent excise tax.

Although the DOE has no estimate of the cost of using natural gas once it is made fully available to the market, it said the cost would be considerably higher than ordinary fuel types.

The DOF official said removing the excise tax imposed on natural gas would help bring down the cost of using natural gas. *Michelle V. Remo*

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Cocktales

From page B3

and Vicente Santos. Two unfinished condominiums beside Cleveland and Washington condos have been taken over by the Burgundy Group of Roger Serafica and Sevy Oliva.

Unlike Cleveland and Washington where the units are about 300 sq.m. each, the two neighboring Burgundy condos have been downsized to as little as 35-sq.m. studios, at P65,000 per sq.m., in deference to market realities.

If Burgundy rings a bell, it is because the Katipunan Avenue-condo across from Ateneo with the same name just happens to be where Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, whose family owns the entire penthouse floor, holed up during the Erap impeachment days.

Asiaworld Properties vice chair Elena Tanyu-Coyiuto said the AIC Grande condo building in Ortigas should now be finished and delivered to buyers before the year ends, thanks to a restructuring deal with George Ty's Metrobank.

And Xanland Place, a 17-story residential condo also across Ateneo, should be ready by July, thanks to the bridge financing provided by a most unlikely property dealer, telecom heir Antonio Cojuangco Jr.

UCPB building for sale

UCPB's thrift bank subsidiary has put on the block its four-story building in Legaspi Village for a minimum bid price of P110.42 million.

The two-decades-old building at 153 Legaspi St. near the Makati Medical Center sits on an 804-sq.m. lot and has a total floor area of 2,114 sq.m. It has a parking area for 16 to 20 vehicles.

Joey Macadaeg, UCPB executive vice president for credit and supervision, said the sale was part of the sequestered bank's moves to cut costs and make the organization more efficient.

UCPB's thrift bank subsidiary, United Savings Bank, is transferring its offices to the UCPB headquarters in Salcedo Village in preparation for the sale.

Heard through the grapevine

FORMER San Miguel chair/CEO Andres Soriano III and Victoria Hagedorn have filed for and been granted divorce in the Dominican Republic.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Province of Cebu

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Cebu, thru its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites all interested manufacturers, suppliers, dealers and/or distributors to apply for eligibility and to submit bids for the supply of various food requirements of jail prisoners at the Cebu Provincial Detention and Rehabilitation Center (CPDRC) for seven (7) months from June 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004, with an Approved Budget of Php 5,365,115.00.

In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, the bidders should conform to the eligibility criteria as prescribed under Section 23.6 of the approved IRR-A of Republic Act No. 9184.

Eligibility requirements and bid forms, tender documents and request for quotation shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Provincial General Services Office, DepEd Building, Capitol, Cebu City, within the government prescribed office hours, starting on Thursday, April 22, 2004, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos Only (Php 100.00).

Pre-bid conference will be conducted on Friday, April 30, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the BAC conference room, Provincial General Services Office, DepEd building, Capitol, Cebu City.

Sealed envelopes containing the duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals shall be received by the BAC Secretariat at the above-mentioned address not later than 10:00 o'clock in the morning on Thursday, May 13, 2004, and shall be publicly opened thereafter.

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Province of Cebu reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered complying, responsive and most advantageous to the government.

For inquiry, please contact the Office of the BAC Secretariat at Telephone Nos. 253-9614, 253-3995 and 416-6065.

These requirements are posted at the BAC Bulletin Board, PGSO, DepEd bldg., Capitol, Cebu City.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. HABIN
Chairman

(PDI--April 22 & 28, 2004)

Gov't sells bonds worth $400M for Napocor

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday sold $400 million worth of sovereign bonds in the global market to raise financing for National Power Corp.

The timing of the issues enabled the government to take advantage of the improvement in the yields on Philippine bonds, brought about mainly by surveys showing President Macapagal-Arroyo widening her lead over rival Fernando Poe Jr.

The amount was increased from the original target sale of $300 million, and was split evenly between the 2011 and 2014 issues.

The $200 million in 2011 bonds were sold at a spread of 375 basis points over US treasuries while the 2014 bonds fetched a rate of 405 bps over US treasuries.

The amount raised will be relent to Napocor which needs $1.5 billion in financing this year. It will be added to the proceeds of the recent $100-million zero coupon bond issue, which were also earmarked for Napocor.

"With these, we are already addressing about one-third of Napocor's total borrowing requirements even before the elections," said Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto in a press briefing.

Recto said the government had decided to tap the global market for Napocor's borrowing requirement because of the improvement in the yields on ROP (Republic of the Philippines) bonds.

Since the stability of the prices of ROP bonds may not be sustained until the end of the year, he said the government had deemed it appropriate to issue the bonds now.

Philippine bonds strengthened in the global market last Monday, with the yield of the 14-year debt paper inching closer to that of US treasuries with similar maturity. The difference between the yields of Philippine and American bonds narrowed to 3.82 percentage points on Monday from 4.01 points last Friday. *With a report from Reuters*

RP suspends air talks until after polls

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT has deferred air rights talks with the United States and other countries until after the May 10 national elections.

The Philippines was scheduled to hold negotiations with India, Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos during the first semester. It had also considered opening discussions with Japan and the US during the period.

However, sources said governments of these countries were apprehensive about forging an air service agreement with the Philippines until after a mandate was given to whoever would win the elections.

The government is trying to renegotiate its air rights deal with the US that took effect in October 2003. Carriers led by Philippines Air Lines have criticized the existing agreement to be lopsided in favor of the US.

The Civil Aeronautics Board said the government was originally scheduled to hold discussions with transport officials from Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos in the next two months.

"We wanted to sign an air treaty with Cambodia and Laos as part of Asean integration," CAB executive director Tomas Mañalac said.

The Philippines, according to the CAB official, also wanted to seek the backing of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in convincing Japan to open its air space to more foreign commercial airlines.

The constitutionality of the mining law

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE MINING law is the most forward-looking in the world. It is the result of nine years of hard work by the mining industry, the Bureau of Mines and Geosciences and Congress. The core of the law says that the profits of a mining operation should be shared, in fixed percentages, with the barangay, the municipality and the province where the mine is located.

Now, the Supreme Court has ruled that certain provisions of the law are unconstitutional. A motion for reconsideration has been filed. Let us hope the court will reconsider. In the meantime, an Australian mining firm has closed shop and gone home. No foreigner is expected to put in any money for mining operations in this country unless the court changes its mind.

I leave the constitutional problem to the lawyers and the justices. Let me just tell you about Paracale, a small gold mining town in the Pacific coast of Camarines Norte.

When Miguel Lopez de Legazpi set sail from Acapulco bound for the Philippines in 1565, he carried a two-fold order from the Spanish monarch, Phillip II. The first order was to look for a return route across the Pacific back to Acapulco. The second was to look for gold. The friars heard about the trip and came along for the ride to spread the Word.

The friars were immensely successful. In 40 years, they evangelized the archipelago, a world's record that remains unmatched to this day.

The return route was found soon enough. A month after Legazpi arrived in Cebu, he ordered one of his galleons to sail north. Off Japan, the Spaniards discovered that the wind blew from west to east bringing the galleon to northern California. It was then easy sailing southward to Acapulco. The galleon returned to Cebu with the wonderful news. The colonization of the Philippines then proceeded in earnest.

Finding gold was not so easy. The first mining operation was in Aroroy, Masbate. But the gold there soon ran out.

In 1571, Legazpi made Manila his permanent base of operations. While subjugating Southern Tagalog, his adventurous grandson, Juan de Salcedo, heard about the fabulous mines of Paracale. Legazpi gave him permission to proceed there. Salcedo arrived in Paracale in 1572 and set up the first Spanish mining operations in the whole island of Luzon, long before the discovery of gold in the Mountain Province. Today, 432 years after the arrival of Salcedo, there is still some gold being mined in Paracale.

The Philippines is blessed with huge mineral resources. It is said that they belong to the entire Filipino people. But it seems the folks in Paracale own none of the gold that has been mined there for over four centuries. For today, Paracale remains a miserable, one-street municipality—fifth class. No town is classed lower than this.

As I have already said, the law, for the first time in history, provides that the mining profits should be shared, in fixed percentages, by the barangay, the municipality and the province where the mine is located. This way, there will no longer be a Paracale.

It makes no sense for the Filipino people to own the minerals of the country if the Constitution requires that we, and we alone, should dig them out of the ground, process them, and sell them to the world market, especially since such endeavors are beyond our financial capacity.

Ownership, even majority ownership, is essential, but more so is the sharing of the profits. Paracale, and similar towns all over the country, should be liberated from their miserable poverty.

SMC property unit posts 27% growth in earnings

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN Miguel Properties Inc., the property arm of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., said its net earnings grew 27 percent in the first three months from P49.5 million in the same period last year, officials said after the company's stockholder's meeting yesterday.

INQUIRER computations would place the first quarter earnings at roughly P63 million or an increase of P13 million. Officials, however, declined to disclose the numbers.

SMPI said its net income grew 153 percent to P233 million last year from P92 million in 2002 due to a substantial growth in its leasing and residential operations.

SMPI officials said the bulk of the growth came from a combination of sales and lease operations.

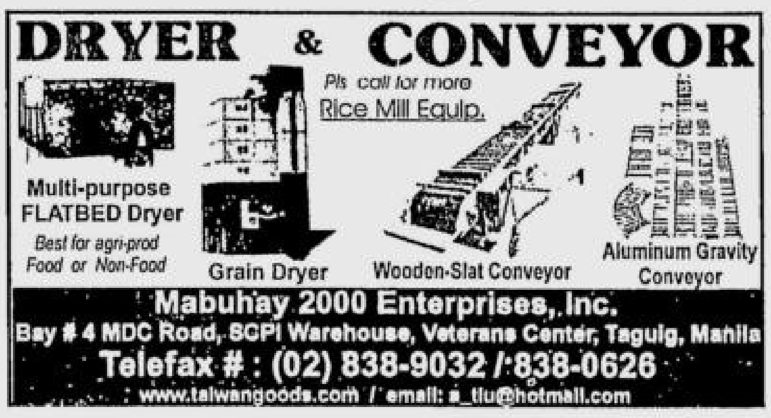
They also said the company would develop its 12-hectare land in Cebu and another property in Laguna into residential projects.

SMPI chair Ramon Ang said the company would accelerate the development of its land holding in order to convert them to cash as soon as possible.

Ang also said SMPI would not venture into the hotel business as of this time, as he denied reports saying that San Miguel was involved in a group trying to buy Manila Diamond Hotel.

Ang said he only accompanied an Indonesian-Chinese investor interested in the $160-million hotel property since he knew the seller, Japanese businessman Masafumi Takahashi.

He said he did not know whether the deal was already completed.



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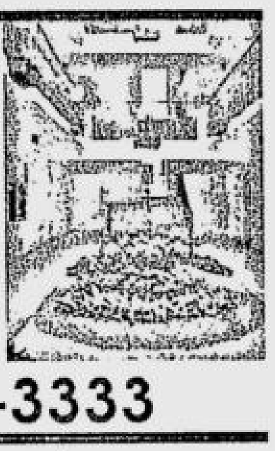

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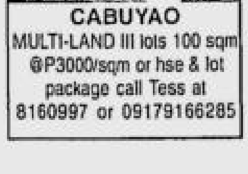

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Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province: Ilocos Norte
City/Municipality: Banna (Espiritu)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that Lerma Caluya Papa has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from AQUILINA to LERMA in the birth certificate of Lerma Caluya Papa who was born on 4 January 1959 at Banna, Ilocos Norte and whose parents are Santiago Caluya and Socorro Guarda.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than 29 April 2004.

(Sgd.) JUDY RABAGO MADES
City/Municipal Civil Registrar

(PDI – April 28, 2004)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
PORT OF MANILA
Customs District II-A
South Harbor, Manila

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601, other related provisions of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines and CMO 5-2003, there will be a PUBLIC AUCTION SALE (Sealed Bidding) to be conducted at the Office of Auction and Cargo Disposal Division, Room No. 304, Customhouse Bldg., South Harbor, Port Area, Manila on May 7, 2004 (Friday) of the hereunder listed Various Articles. Said items/goods shall be available for public viewing on May 6, 2004 (Thursday).

In the event of failed bidding, the same shall be offered in a second auction to be held on the third business day following the first failed bidding at the same time and place with no reduction of the floor price and without need for further advertisement, except as to perishable items, which may be auctioned again on the following business day. When at least two of the sealed bids submitted in an auction fall within ten (10%) percent of the highest bid, the same should be above the floor price (clustering). Those in the cluster shall immediately-go into an open bidding with the highest sealed bid serving as the new floor price of the lot being sold

The winning bidders shall be required to pay 50% of the bid price either in cash and/or manager's check at the end of the bidding. For meritorious reason, said bidder may be allowed to make such payment not later than two (2) hours from the awarding of the won bid. The remaining balance of 50% of the bid price shall be paid within the next business day.

IMPORTANT:

Only registered bidders who have paid the Registration Fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) and Cash Bond (Refundable) of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) are eligible to participate in the auction sale.

Registration starts at 1:30 p.m. and will close at 2:00 p.m.

For further inquiry, please contact the following telephone number 528-60-00 local 459.

LOT #	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	FLOOR PRICE
024-04	(1) One MITSUBISHI PAJERO 1995 Model (CANNIBALIZED)	P 180,327.07
025-04	(3) Three NISSAN CEFIRO	P 1,652,433.84

(Sgd.) Atty. RONNIE C. SILVESTRE
District Collector
Port of Manila

(PDI - April 28 2004)

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ATTY. MANUEL M. VELOSO

of Leyte and Marikina City

Peacefully joined our Lord
on April 23, 2004 at the age of 75.

Her loving children **Wick & Arlene Veloso**; grandchildren **Katrina, Kristia, Paolo & Miggy**; and loving brother request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Santuario de San Antonio.

Mass of the resurrection will be held on Friday, April 30th, 2004 at 7:30 a.m.

Cremation will follow at Funeraria Paz, Sucat, Parañaque.

In the Loving Memory of

Pilar Violan Torres

of San Pablo City and Malolos, Bulacan

who died at the age of 87 on April 17, 2004 in Sacramento, California

From her brother **Pepito V. Torres**,
sister, **Liwayway T. de Mesa**,
nephews, nieces and other relatives

Her remains lie in state in her residence at
Marasigan St., Lakeside Park Subd., San Pablo City.
Interment will be on April 29, 2004 at the
San Pablo Memorial Park after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

We, the Family of

SYLVIA S. DE LEON

of Mandaluyong and
Los Angeles, USA

June 20, 1960 - March 20, 2004

express our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, attended the wake and burial and otherwise, comforted us in our bereavement.

Children **Chrystelle, Cathryn,**
Christopher, Camille
and **Charlene Castañeda**
Sister **Ma. Cecilia de Leon-Madden**
Brother **Dionisio de Leon III**
Nieces, cousins, uncles, aunts and other relatives.

ENGR. TOMAS R. VALENCIA, 91

Former Regional Director, DPWH
September 18, 1913 - April 23, 2004

His body will be laid to rest at Cagayan de Oro Gardens after the 8:00 a.m. Mass today.

> *"He maketh me lie down in green pastures & leadeth me beside still waters."* — Psalm 23:2

ONG SUAN TI
(MRS. YAO KA SIN)

of Tacloban City, Leyte

has been called home by the Almighty Father to be with Him in His eternal warmth & embrace on April 24, 2004 at the age of 86.

Her loving children **Mary & Francisco** (†), **Henry & Nancy, Jimmy & Carmen, Rose** (†) **& Santy, Nancy & Alex, Harry & Amy**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends will surely miss her love, her caring ways & her faithfulness to the Lord.

Her remains lie in state at the Tacloban Christian Church, 99 Avenida Veteranos, Tacloban City.

Interment will be on Monday, May 3, 2004 at the Tacloban Chinese Cemetery after the church service at 8:00 a.m.

> *"When this tent I live in – my body here on earth – is torn down,*
> *God will have a house in heaven for me to live in,*
> *a home He himself has made, which will last forever."*
> **2 Corinthians 5:1**

Our Dearly Beloved

LINA MARTIN-RUPAC

Peacefully joined our Almighty Father
on 25 April 2004 at the age of 43.

Her loving husband **BENEDICTO RUPAC**; children **MARY GRACE, PRINCESS & ISAAC**; parents **SOTERO & PRIMA MARTIN**; sisters & brothers **TESS & JERRY QUIRANTE, ERNA & YSMAEL BAQUIEL, SOTERO JR. & VERONICA MARTIN, NOEL & SHERRIE MARTIN, LEA MARTIN, ROMMEL & RIZZIE MARTIN**; nephews, nieces, **APOY, KATESS, PHILIPPE, JONATHAN, BRANDON, JUSTINE, KEVIN, ELYSSE, INNO BOY, & KAELA**, friends and relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at St. Therese Chapel, U.P. Los Baños, Los Baños, Laguna.

Funeral Mass will be on Sunday, May 02, 2004, at 9:00 a.m. and cremation will follow after the mass at Eternal Garden, Biñan, Laguna.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Tels. 942-6044; 475-1177

FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
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Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
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Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
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Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
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Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011;
Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite;
Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila;
Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42;
(TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
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Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711; 651-0737
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat, Parañaque City;
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LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila;
Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795; 732-2827

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EDSA cor. Bernardino St.,
Guadalupe, Makati City;
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& CREMATORY SERVICES
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Tañong, Marikina City
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MALABED FUNERAL SERVICE
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Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels. 645-1855
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Tels. 283-1613, 273-8922
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
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Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868
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SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City;
Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City,
Tels. 852-8228, 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila;
Tels. 749-3679, 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City;
Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286/87
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Cel. No. (0917) 5016963

CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

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SM MEGAMALL
6331901

1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 PAYCHECK
3 STRASKY & HUTCH
4 PETA
5 A WHOLE 10 YARDS
6 MAN ON FIRE
7 HAUNTED SPIRIT
8 BOOBITA ROSE
9 SCHOOL OF ROCK
10 HELLBOY
11 TAKING LIVES
12 ANIMAL

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 PAYCHECK
2 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
3 SPARTAN
4 STARSKY & HUTCH
5 MAN ON FIRE
6 HELLBOY
7 SCHOOL OF ROCK
8 PETER PAN
9 BOOBITA ROSE
10 HAUNTED SPIRIT
11 A WHOLE 10 YARDS
12 ANIMAL

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 MAN ON FIRE
2 STARSKY & HUTCH
3 SPARTAN
4 HELLBOY
5 PETER PAN
6 PAYCHECK
7 ANIMAL
8 SCHOOL OF ROCK
9 BOOBITA ROSE
10 HAUNTED SIPIRIT
11 A WHOLE 10 YARDS
12 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 A WHOLE 10 YARDS
2 SCHOOL OF ROCK
3 BOOBITA ROSE
4 HELLBOY
5 PAYCHECK
6 PETER PAN
7 STARSKY & HUTCH
8 MAN ON FIRE

SM CITY STA. MESA
7149522 • 7161416

1 MAN ON FIRE
2 PAYCHECK
3 HELLBOY
4 PETER PAN
5 STARSKY & HUTCH
6 SPARTAN
7 SCHOOL OF ROCK
8 BOOBITA ROSE
9 A WHOLE 10 YARDS
10 ANIMAL

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 HELLBOY
2 MAN ON FIRE
3 STARSKY & HUTCH
4 ANIMAL

North

SM CITY MARILAO
(044) 933 2013 to 17

1 HELLBOY
2 TAKING LIVES
3 THE CURSE
4 STARSKY & HUTCH

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7126015

1 PETER PAN
2 HELLBOY
3 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
4 CHECK INN
5 BOOBITA ROSE
6 STARSKY & HUTCH

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464505

1 HELLBOY
2 TAKING LIVES
3 GRUDGE 2
4 PAYCHECK

South

SM CITY LAS PIÑAS
8066888

1 HELLBOY
2 SCHOOL OF ROCK
3 STARSKY & HUTCH
4 A WHOLE 10 YARDS
5 PAYCHECK
6 SPARTAN
7 HAUNTED SPIRIT
8 MAN ON FIRE
9 BOOBITA ROSE
10 ANIMAL

SM CITY BICUTAN
7763055

1 STARSKY & HUTCH
2 MAN ON FIRE
3 A WHOLE 10 YARDS
4 HELLBOY

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT
8294975

1 SCHOOL OF ROCK
2 MAN ON FIRE
3 STARSKY & HUTCH
4 HELLBOY

SM CITY BACOOR
(046)4173868

1 A WHOLE 10 YARDS
2 SCHOOL OF ROCK
3 MAN ON FIRE
4 HAUNTED SPIRIT
5 HELLBOY
6 STRASKY & HUTCH
7 BOOBITA ROSE
8 ANIMAL

SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7109977-80

1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 CURSE
3 GRUDGE 2
4 PAYCHECK

Visayas & Mindanao

SM CITY CEBU
(032) 2313876

1 TAKING LIVES
2 50 FIRST DATES
3 PETER PAN
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
5 DRAGON VS. NINJA
6 CHECH INN
7 BOOBITA ROSE
8 PAYCHECK

SM CITY ILOILO
(033) 3209422

1 SORUM
2 RESERVED
3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 HIGHWAYMEN
5 PETER PAN
6 PAYCHECK
7 RESERVED
8 GRUDGE 2

SM CITY DAVAO
(082) 2976996

1 PETER PAN
2 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 DEATH CURSE
5 TAKING LIVES
6 PAYCHECK

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8592684

1 PETER PAN
2 ACACIA
3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 PAYCHECK

—THE—
PODIUM
CINEMA

1
MAN ON FIRE
11:10 FS/11:40
MF/2:30/5:20/8:10/10:35
LFS/11:00 LMF/1:25 END

2
STARSKY & HUTCH
11:15 FS/11:45
MF/2:00/4:15/6:30/8:45/
10:30 LFS/11:00
LMF/12:45 END

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
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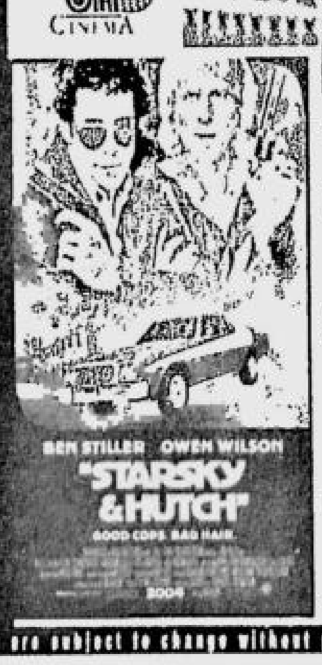
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

SM CINEMA

red carpet event



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Come dance to the rhythm and revive the *Starsky and Hutch* era in a party to be held at Xaymaca bar, Tomas Morato at 10 in the evening on April 28, 2004

regular showing I apr282004
at the SM Cinemas
MTRCB Rating: PG13

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MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) TAKING LIVES
2 (SDDS) HELLBOY
3 (DTS) PAY CHECK
4 (GOLD DTS) PASSION OF THE CHRIST
5 (GOLD DOLBY) WHOLE 10 YARD
6 (GOLD DOLBY) STARSKY & HUTCH
7 (GOLD DOLBY) MAN OF FIRE
8 BOOBITA ROSE
9 SCHOOL OF ROCK
10 PETER PAN

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) HELLBOY
2 (DOLBY) MAN OF FIRE
3 (DOLBY) STARSKY & HUTCH
4 (DOLBY) SCHOOL OF ROCK

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 833.3274

1 ANIMAL
2 STARSKY & HUTCH
3 HELLBOY

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 STARSKY & HUTCH
MAN OF FIRE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ANIMAL
5

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1 MAN OF FIRE
2 ANIMAL
3 STARSKY & HUTCH
4 HELLBOY
5 WHOLE 10 YARD
6 SCHOOL OF ROCK

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004

1 ANIMAL
2

PREMIERE CINEMA
(Makati City) tel 892.2503
THX

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 BOOBITA ROSE
2 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1
2
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

RESERVE
5
6
7 (DTS)
8 (SDDS)
9 (DOLBY)

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 CLOSE FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSE FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSE FOR RENOVATION
4 (DDS) HELLBOY
5 STARSKY & HUTCH
6 (DOLBY) ANIMAL
7 (DTS) MAN OF FIRE
8 SCHOOL OF ROCK
9 BOOBITA ROSE

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 RESERVE
2 (SDDS)
3 (DTS)
4 (DOLBY)
5

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 MAN OF FIRE
2 SPARTAN
3 (DTS) WHOLE 10 YARD
4 ANIMAL
5 HELLBOY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson CARMEN
Lords DOUBLE SEDUCCTION

MATRIX A.F.
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 MAN ON FIRE
2 STARSKY & HUTCH
3 ANIMAL
4 WHOLE 10 YARD

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) WHOLE 10 YARD
2 MAN ON FIRE
3 ANIMAL
4 STARSKY & HUTCH
5 HELLBOY

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 ; 879.2029

1 ANIMAL
2 TORQUE

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center

Ali MALL CINEPLEX 7
Tel No. 911-3101 Loc. [illegible]

1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 MAN OF FIRE
4 (SDDS) STARSKY & HUTCH
5 (DTS) WHOLE 10 YARD
6 HELLBOY
7 SCHOOL OF ROCK

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 HELLBOY
2 ACACIA
3 PETER PAN
4 STARSKY & HUTCH

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1 STARSKY & HUTCH
2 HELLBOY
3 PETER PAN
4 BOOBITA ROSE

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 BOOBITA ROSE
3 (DOLBY) REPLICATE
4 EMPERORS CLUB

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1 STARSKY & HUTCH
2 ANIMAL
3 (DTS) HELLBOY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 MAN OF FIRE
2 (DTS) STARSKY & HUTCH
3 (DOLBY) HELLBOY
4 UNINVITED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 STARSKY & HUTCH
2 (DOLBY) HELLBOY
3 (DTS) MAN OF FIRE
4 UNINVITED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 BOOBITA ROSE
2 PASSION OF CHRIST
3 (DOLBY) UNINVITED

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 BOOBITA ROSE
2 HELLBOY
3 (DOLBY) BONE SNATCHER
4 (DTS) PASSION OF CHRIST

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795-3323

1 PETER PAN
2 TAKING LIVES
3 HELLBOY

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (DTS) HIGHWAY MEN
2 ANIMAL
3 TEENAGE SEDUCTION
4 (TBA)

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 HELLBOY
2 ANIMAL
3 MAN OF FIRE
4 UNINVITED
5 STARSKY & HUTCH

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 ANIMAL
2 MAN OF FIRE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1 STARSKY & HUTCH
2 MAN OF FIRE
3 ANIMAL

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 PASSION OF CHRIST
2 BOOBITA ROSE
3 (DTS) BONE SNATCHER
4 (DOLBY) CHECK - IN

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel 520.8914

1 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 CHECK - IN
2 HELLBOY
3 TWISTED
4 PASSION OF CHRIST

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 ANIMAL
2 VIRGIN PEOPLE

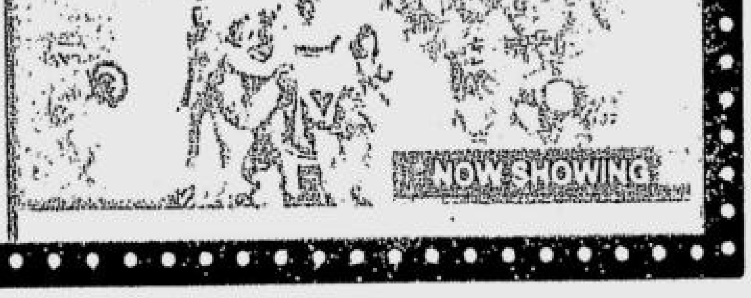
*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

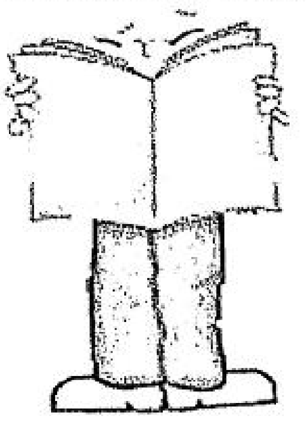
ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest Alabang

Tel. 85035-71 to 72.

Schedule subject to change without prior notice





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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

For inquiries, call:
687-6963 • 687-6972
RESERVED SEATING
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

	Film	Times	Rating
1	HELLBOY	11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30	PG-13
2	MAN ON FIRE	11:00, 1:55, 4:55 7:55, 10:00	R-18
3	STARSKY & HUTCH	11:40, 1:50, 4:00 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	PG-13
4	SCHOOL OF ROCK	12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40	PG-13

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

NOW SHOWING

Cinema	Film	Times	Rating
CINEMA 1	MAN ON FIRE	10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00	R18
CINEMA 2	STARSKY & HUTCH	10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	P13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

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Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

HELLBOY **PG13** 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	**SCHOOL OF ROCK** **PG13** 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	**STARSKY AND HUTCH** **PG13** 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
WHOLE TEN YARDS **R13** 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, 8:10, 10:10	**SPARTAN** **PG13** 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30	**MAN OF FIRE** **R18** 12:55, 4:00, 7:05, 10:20

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Per DTI Permit No. AI-212 Series of 2004

Araneta Center

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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Ali 4	SPARTAN
Ali 5	PAYCHECK
Ali 6	TWISTED
Ali 7	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB

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MAY 2	PBA : RED BULL VS. FEDEX
MAY 3	AMA GRADUATION
MAY 4	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
MAY 5	PBA : ALASKA VS. STA. LUCIA
MAY 6	NCA7-COCK DERBY
MAY 9	PBA: FEDEX VS. SHELL
MAY 12	PBA : STA. LUCIA VS. GINEBRA

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY . LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	ANIMAL
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	ANIMAL
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
CINEMA-2	CHECK INN
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CINEMA-12	PETER PAN
CINEMA-14	PAYCHECK
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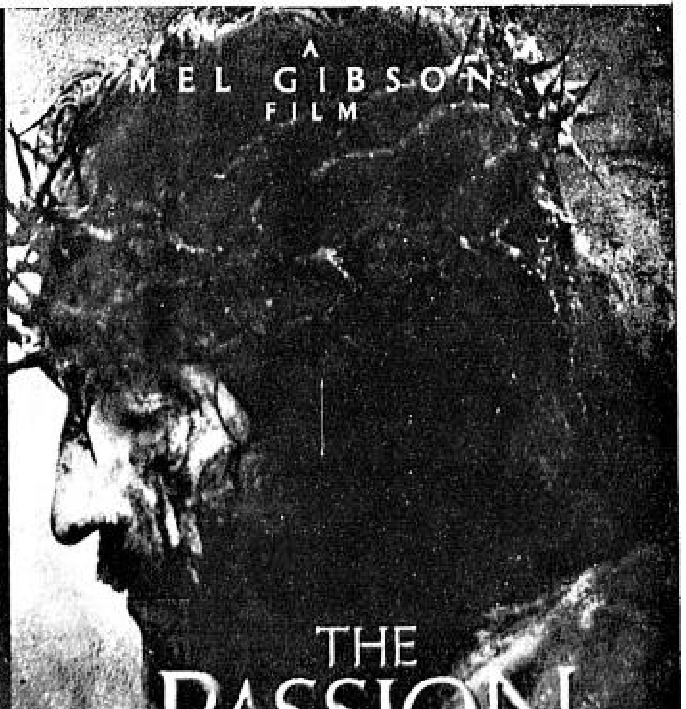

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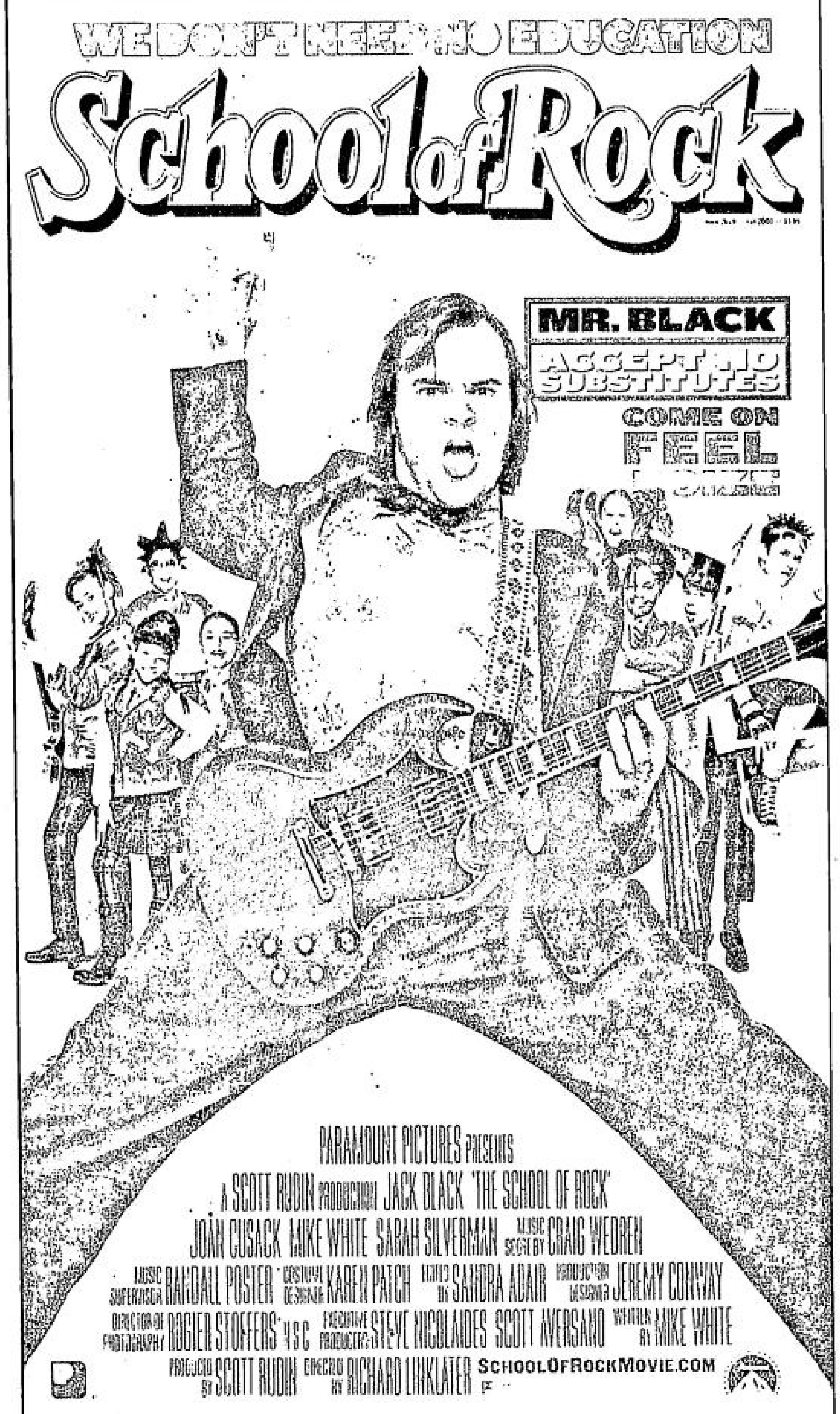
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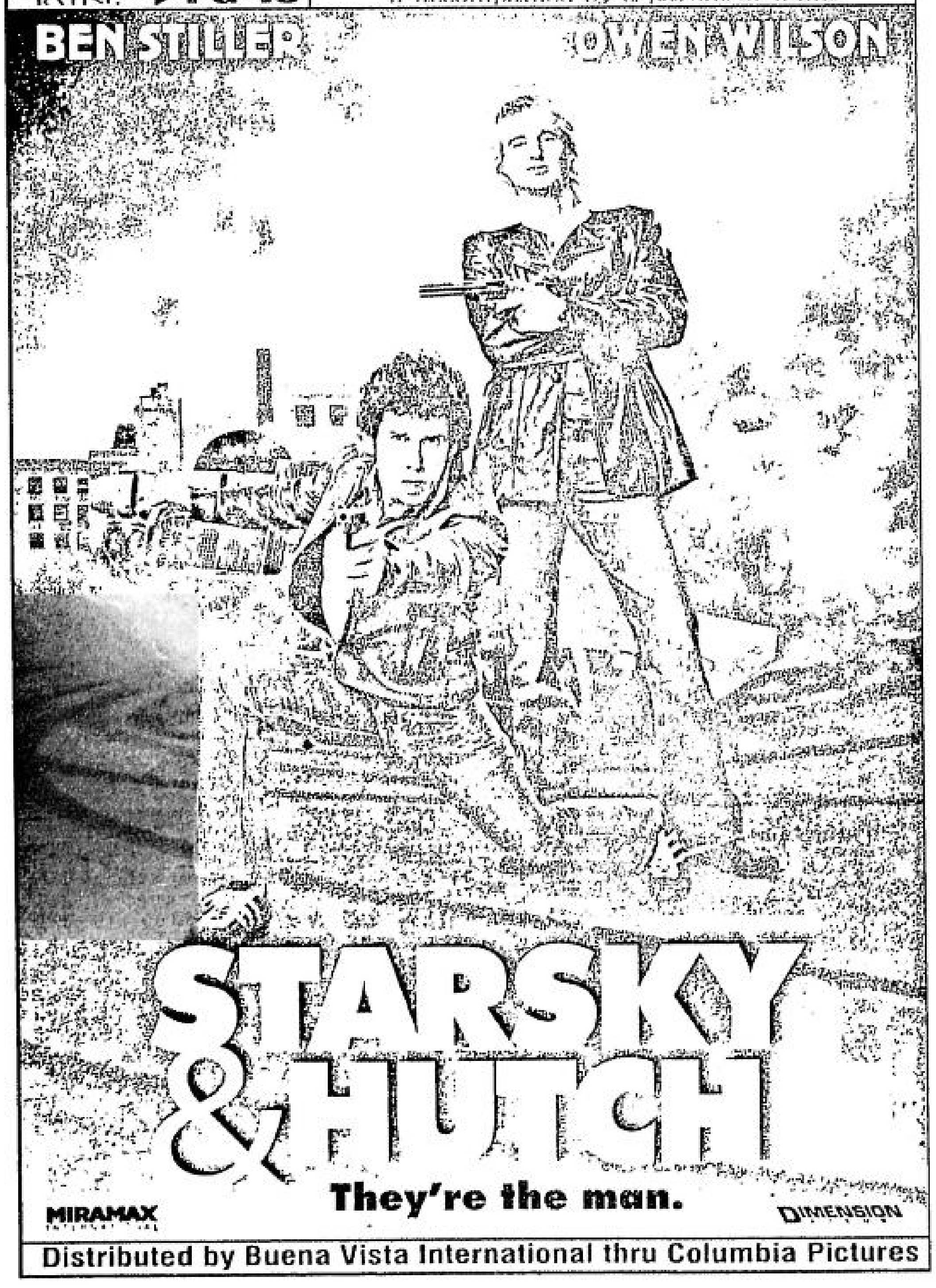
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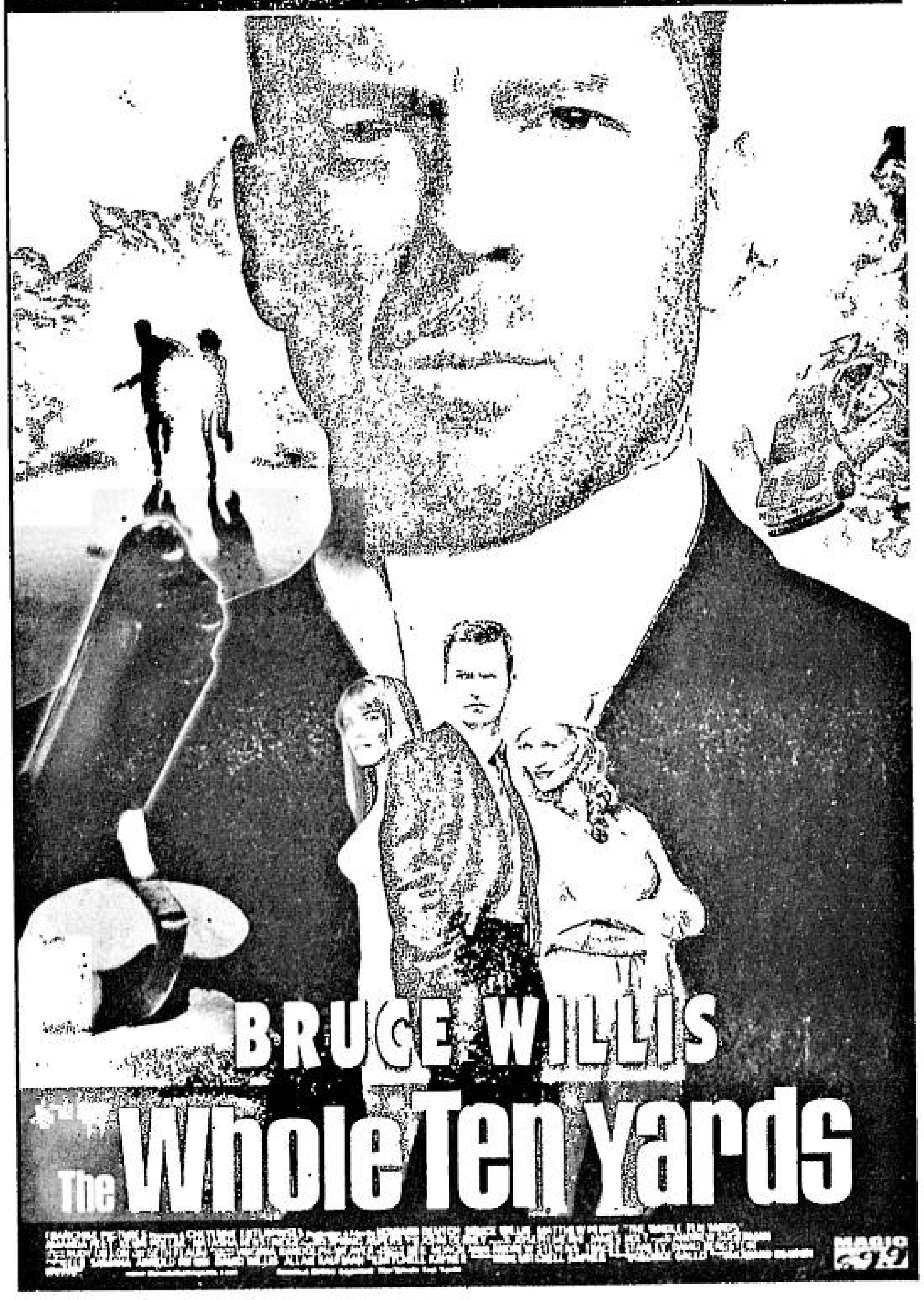
BRUCE WILLIS
The Whole Ten Yards

Present with power

By Dr. Tony Alessandra

THE NUMBER ONE fear of most adults (even above death) is speaking in public.

Yet the ability to communicate to groups of people is a skill which can make a critical difference in our careers and in our ability to share information, ideas, experience, and enthusiasm with others.

A study conducted by AT&T and Stanford University revealed that the top predictor of success and upward mobility, professionally, is how much you enjoy public speaking and how effective you are at it.

Most of us have experienced more than our share of boring presentations. After what seems like hours, we still don't know what message we were supposed to get.

Maybe the speaker put us to sleep with his monotone presentation or we couldn't read the small writing on the transparencies, which didn't seem to match up at all with what the speaker was trying to say.

To avoid being the source of a "sleeper" presentation, you need to build your presentation skills. Here are some simple guidelines to overcoming stage fright and preparing for a successful presentation.

1. Develop the attitude of a successful public speaker.

Remember that stage fright is normal and be open about it. Sometimes just admitting that you are feeling anxiety helps relieve it. You should also remember that you are the expert.

The person who asked you to speak believes that you have something of value to share. The people attending the meeting believe that they will receive information of value.

Therefore, your primary duty is to understand what your audience needs to know and prepare the message and supporting materials in a way that delivers your message clearly and powerfully.

2. Make a strong, wholehearted commitment to your audience.

Concentrating on them and their needs will help you forget about your own self-consciousness.

3. Overcome stage fright.

Practice your presentation. Do a pilot test, and if possible, videotape yourself. Establish rapport by using names and eye contact. Research your audience. Get acquainted with at least one person in the audience. Relax. Breathe deeply. Visualize yourself successfully presenting your message to the audience. Use your own style. Don't imitate someone else.

4. Plan for success.

A good presentation requires careful planning and lack of planning is always apparent. Sure clues are speeches that are too long, too detailed, confusing, vague, boring or off-track.

The most critical step in preparation is understanding the "what" and the "why" of your presentation: its purpose. Your purpose should be the broad general outcome you want the presentation to achieve. Here are three questions you can ask yourself to clarify the objective of your presentation: Why am I giving this presentation? What do I want the audience to know or do at the end of the presentation? How do I want the audience to feel?

5. Focus on the "big idea."

Once you know your audience and are clear about your objectives and purpose, you are ready to start organizing your presentation. The first step is to find your focus. This is the "big idea" of your material, the power punch, the one thing you want your audience to walk away with. One way to make sure you are clear on your focus is to develop a basic outline of your presentation.

Begin by listing no more than five independent ideas that the audience must understand for the objectives to be accomplished. Then, outline your plan for presenting the necessary detail and persuasive material needed to allow your audience to understand those points. This gives you a rough outline of the content of your message.

6. Get their attention.

There are three major sections of a presentation: introduction, main body, and conclusion. Your first step is to get the audience's attention and convince them to listen to you. This happens in the introduction ... and this is where many beginning speakers lose their audience.

Grab them with something vitally interesting to them. Give them an interesting story or example that ties into your focus. Use a strong, meaningful quotation or a startling statistic.

Be succinct, use simple graphic language, and most of all, never apologize! If the airline lost your bag and you're in yesterday's clothes ... if you're a last minute substitute for the best speaker in the country ... if you have the flu and a 101 degree temperature, don't mention it.

Start your speech with power. Make your audience think they're going to be informed, entertained or enlightened ... don't let them think they're getting inferior goods, leftovers or anything except your best.

7. Deliver the main message in the shortest, most interesting way possible.

Hold people's attention during the main body of your message by creating a lot of mini-cycles with beginnings, middles, and ends instead of having one big cycle that lasts through the entire presentation.

You should plan a change-of-pace every 10 to 15 minutes so that you can break up your talk into mini-cycles and keep attention riveted. You can do this by including appropriate humor, stories, exercises requiring people to move their bodies (even if it's just raising their hands) or calls for a verbal response. Keep these change-of-pace exercises as physical as possible if your presentation occurs after lunch when much of our energy is diverted to our digestive system.

Remember that the purpose of your presentation is not to present all you know about a subject—it's to present what your audience needs to know in a way that meets your personal objectives as well as theirs.

8. End with impact.

Many speakers have a dynamite opening and a powerful, interesting message only to drop the ball at the end. You need a strong wrap-up. It serves an important role for the audience.

Your conclusion should repeat your main ideas: don't expect the audience to remember a point which they have heard only once. You can signal a wind-up of the presentation with a phrase such as: "Let's review the main points we've covered." Your conclusion should be strong, succinct and persuasive.

9. Practice and visualize success.

You know your audience. You know your material. You've written a dynamite speech. The last step is to practice delivering it.

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Raise your hand and make a difference!

MAKE your summer meaningful! Come to the Hands On Manila Foundation New Volunteers Orientation on April 29, 2004 from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Powerbooks Live Greenbelt 4. Be part of thousands of volunteers who have shared their time and talent caring for underprivileged children, cleaning up the parks, tutoring young boys, painting walls at shelters, etc. Spending a little time to help others is a big step towards a better community.

How to recover from a layoff

By Kevin Donlin

BEEN laid off? Know someone who has? It's an emotionally draining experience.

So, what's the best way to cope with a layoff?

Here are some answers based on my own client files and and interview of nationally renowned career expert Carole Martin (visit her site at www.interviewcoach.com).

1. Acknowledge your emotions. Don't deny that you're depressed or even angry following a layoff, advises Martin. "When you lose a job, you may lose friends, a social life and a big chunk of your identity along with a salary. So recognize that any change this radical is going to be stressful."

To combat a flood of negative emotions, get them out of your system; if you try to repress that anger, you'll only make yourself sick. Try writing down your feelings in a letter to your old boss—then burn that letter. This can have a healthful, cathartic effect. And don't hesitate to seek out people for emotional support, such as clergy and therapists.

But Martin advises caution when turning to family members for aid. "They may be too close to the situation and get caught up in the same anger you're feeling."

2. Take time to assess your value. Before jumping back into the job market, make sure you're looking for a job that excites you. Avoid the temptation to take the first opening that comes along. Look back on your work experience and pick out the three to four most valuable and marketable skills you want to use in your next job. You have the freedom to decide.

There are free career aptitude tests online to guide you through this self-discovery process. Here's a link to a good starting point—http://www.careerexplorer.net/test.asp.

3. Create your perfect pitch. Once you've chosen a job to seek, create a 30-second commercial about yourself. What's most valuable about you? Your years of experience? Your technical expertise? The money you saved or earned for employers? Your sales pitch should answer the question in every employer's mind: "Why should I hire you?" And make it so intriguing that when you say it, listeners respond: "Oh? How do you do that?"

Example: "I'm a help desk manager who brings order from chaos, with five years of experience and a CS degree. In my last role, I found a way to save 21 staff hours per week and $96,000 in annual expenses."

4. Network as if your career depended on it. Because it does! You already know that upwards of 70 percent of all jobs are never advertised and only filled by word of mouth, right? So get out there and spread the word.

Of course you'll need a top-notch resume, but don't devote more than 10 to 20 percent of your time to responding to newspaper ads and Internet job postings. "The very worst thing you can do is to send out resumes, wait by the phone and do nothing else," says Martin.

To supercharge your job search, join a support group with other job seekers. There's emotional strength in numbers. And these groups can be a rich source of leads. Job search networking groups are sponsored by many churches and listed in your newspaper. You can find more at monster.com, google.com or by calling the library and asking for the reference librarian.

So, no matter what you are feeling after a layoff, look to yourself, to your friends and to professionals for assistance. "People really do want to help," says Martin.

(Kevin Donlin is President of Guaranteed Resumes. Since 1996, he and his writers have provided resumes, cover letters and online job-search assistance to clients on five continents. For more information. visit http://www.gresumes.com/book.htm.)

VACANT
GOODBYE!
ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADE

Saviors of working moms

By Gina Abuyuan-Llanes

"THEY should be literate enough to know how to read dosages on a medicine bottle and prescriptions from the doctor," I found myself replying to Joyce Barton's question on ANC's Dateline Philippines. She had asked me my take on the *yaya's* role in the lives of working moms and, I rattled off what I thought were the most important qualities a good *yaya* should have. "She should be open to learning more about childcare, reading books or attending *yaya* seminars. And, *dapat magaling siya magkwento*."

The other working moms in the panel nodded understandingly. We all know how it is to come home one night and realize that we've missed yet another of our child's milestones: a first word, a first giggle. We can't do much about not being there when it happened. There's no use beating ourselves up. The best thing we can do, short of installing a closed-circuit monitoring system in our homes, is have an enthusiastic, eager-to-share *yaya* to help us keep tabs on our babies. (My boss, An, has such a *yaya* for her little Diego).

WORKING MOM
Gina Abuyuan-Llanes

Lucky

I'm lucky to have two—one for each of my twin boys, Marco and Mateo. With great excitement, they report the boys' daily progress down to the littlest detail—what times each had his nap and woke up; whether they slept fitfully or restfully; and how much each one laughed or cried or spat up.

With Zeny and Jelly at home, I never have to worry about enjoying my kids' achievements, albeit vicariously.

They tell me how Mateo likes to cuddle close to his brother, while Marco prefers to have a wide space all for himself. Through them, I know that Mateo prefers to sleep in his playpen in the sala, while Marco likes to sleep on his ate's bed in an airconditioned room. Without Zeny and Jelly, I'd be a bag of nerves on a perennial guilt trip—which I was when I was a younger mom with Simone.

Jealousy

I used to be raving jealous of Sim and her yaya, precisely because she was so efficient. I saw her as my rival. I railed against Nenen's influence on my daughter, even if I knew, deep inside, that what Sim and I have is a connection thousands of Sing-Along-With-Barneys could not sever. Even if I knew that I had hired Nenen to help me because I wanted to pay attention to my career. It took me years, and Nenen's return to the province (due to an illness in her family, not because I let her go, take note!), before I appreciated what Nenen was to me and how much she gave my daughter. It was she, in fact, who helped me train Zeny and Jelly be the conscientious, caring *yayas* they are now.

Now that I'm older—and hopefully wiser and less insecure—I see Zeny and Jelly's position as it is: to watch and care for my kids while I'm at work. They aren't there to replace me. They may influence Marco and Mateo in some ways, but it is up to me to make the valuable, indelible, life-defining marks in my sons' lives.

Partners

How? By acknowledging, too, that our *yayas* are our not only our partners in childcare, but our partners in work-life balance. If trained well, they allow us the time and space to relish work and love what we do. If we're lucky, they'll help us be the best moms we can be, by helping us to be there 100 percent for our kids. Zeny and Jelly, for instance, know how not to shove the children at me when I'm pooped from work. They wait until I'm rested, then they slip quietly away for my exclusive, one-on-one time with the boys.

Their latest report, by the way, was about Mateo turning over, how he struggled to flop over on his left, and beamed a triumphant, gummy grin after. I knew something in me had changed (matured?) as I listened to them over the phone—I didn't feel angry, cheated, or guilty. In fact, I was genuinely happy and proud of my son's achievement, even if I wasn't there to witness it. Heck, I was so proud I had a vodka tonic.

Having good *yayas* mean you can also have a night out once in a while. Their presence makes it possible for us to be more than just moms. With them, we can practice our being whole, so we can have more to give our children.

(Gina Abuyuan-Llanes is Editor in Chief of Working Mom magazine. For more about loving your work, your kids, and making the most out of both, get the April issue of Working Mom, with Bea Lucero and Christine Jacob on the cover. Feedback is welcome at gina_llanes@abs.pinoycentral.com.)

PEOPLE at WORK

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Psychic self-defense for the office

By Candy G. Villanueva

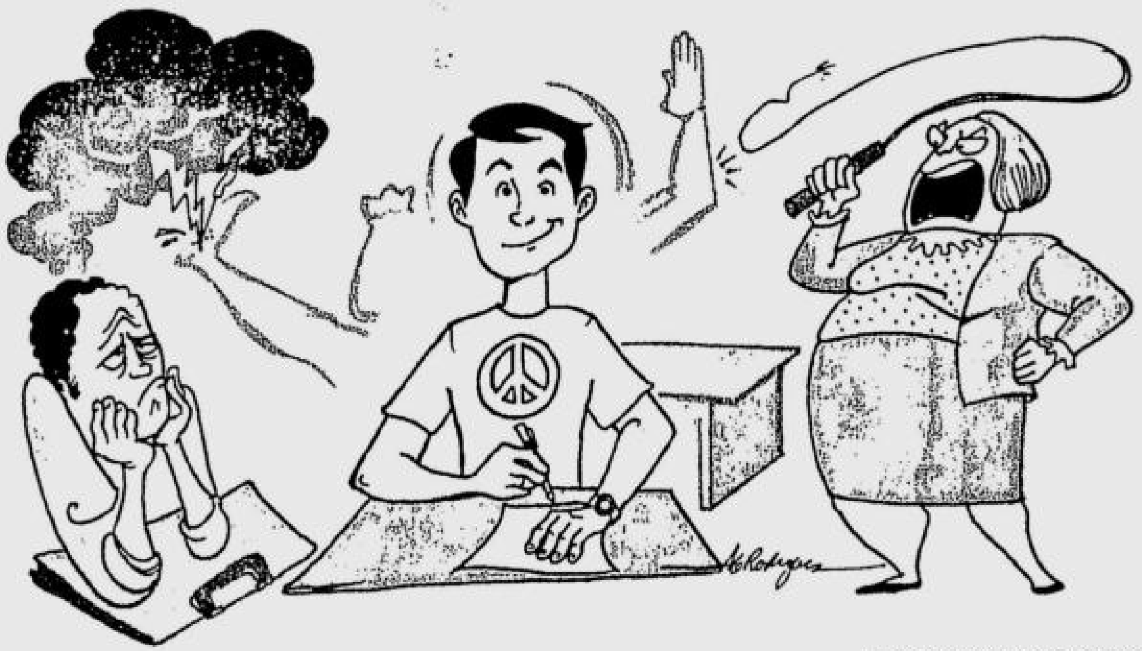

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

EVERYTHING is made up of energy. If you believe that, then do read on. Otherwise there is no reason for you to finish this article because this piece is based on one fundamental idea, the concept of matter made up of energy.

Workplace energy

The phrases "will power," "think positive," or "whatever you think, so it shall be" and "do unto others what you want them to do unto you" are based on the foundation of energy. Energy may be as subtle as thoughts, feelings or auras or it could be as magnificent as solar energy or atomic energy. Whatever form it may be, energy is powerful and can affect anything it comes in contact with. Sometimes, we may need to protect ourselves because some energies could be negative and harmful.

Because the workplace is filled with people enclosed in one area for the most part of the day, it is a breeding ground for both positive and negative energies. At the office, we see bustling employees high on ideas, bursting with enthusiasm and competing encouragingly but you can also find workers panicking over deadlines, stressing on quotas and racing against each other to the top. These are the types of energies that could be harmful to us.

Negative energies

Master Choa Kok Sui, author and teacher of Pranic Healing, teaches the art of psychic self-defense. Psychic self-defense is the science and art of protecting oneself from psychic attacks or negative energies inflicted intentionally or not. In the workplace specially, one needs to protect oneself from an envious coworker, a slave-driving boss or gossiping colleagues. These people could sap out the strength from you, bruise your self-esteem or simply dampen your mood.

In some cases, negative thoughts or energies could lead to physical harm. One employee complained of chronic left shoulder pains. His pranic healer discovered that the employee's desk was positioned against a wall on his right. To his left were his malicious coworkers who had ill feeling towards him. The pranic healer explained that the officemates' negative thoughts towards the patient were causing the pain.

Harmful criticisms

According to Master Choa Kok Sui, simple thoughts could transform into an entity or thought form, which could be translated to energy affecting people around it. What may seem like harmless criticisms could also bring harmful energies that could harm one's self-esteem. Articulated or not, negative thoughts produce negative energies.

Feelings also have to be watched. For example, a colleague might be having a tough day. His negative aura could be infectious and thus disruptive. You might come to work feeling bright and hopeful but your boss' prune-like face greeting you at the door could alter your enthusiastic mood. Work then becomes real work. The trick is to protect oneself from these energies.

From Sunday sermons to religion classes, we have always been taught that a person reaps what a person sows. This means that if you do good, you can generally expect blessings. So, if you do not wish to be a recipient of negative energies, then give out good energies. Try to maintain a positive attitude.

Law of karma

According to Master Choa Kok Sui's book "Practical Psychic Self-defense for Home and Office," retaliate against bad energies by blessing the source. This way, you repel and transmute the negative thoughts that are directed to you.

Transmuting can be done by silently saying a prayer for the source or chanting out the word "peace" or "shalom." This should be done with wholehearted sincerity. According to the book, the negative psychic boomerang effect is neutralized this way or minimized at least.

Efren Salcedo, pranic healer and restaurant-owner, claims that he uses the "Blessing Technique" in dealing with his staff and customers. Before the start of his workday, he blesses each of his employees with love, with the intention that the negative energy will be transmuted to calmness, understanding, and peace. This technique helps him minimize conflict and increase productivity.

Non-reaction

Ever notice how an argument mushrooms from a heated debate then balloons into a loud shouting match? It is normal to react to an angry coworker with anger as well. The recipient then gets angrier which results to a big fight.

When somebody confronts you for a bungled-up job, remain calm. Do not be defensive. By thinking clearly and calmly, you will be able to explain and reason effectively. Your placid reaction could also influence your aggressor to relax. Remember, like energies attract. The pranic teacher says that when one gets angry, he or she attracts angry energy as well.

"When the workplace becomes a dumping ground of negative psychic attacks from angry coworkers, the technique I use is the 'non-reaction technique,' " claims Lorna Nunez, who works as a marketing coordinator. "By remaining calm even during a heated discussion you will not feel affected. The moment you react you become vulnerable to negative thoughts which can penetrate you."

Protecting the aura

Aside from relaxing, one can also protect oneself by closing one's aura or creating a shield. This is done physically by crossing one's arms and legs.

According to the book, the human aura is a major factor in the natural psychic self-defense system of a person. An aura is an energy field that surrounds the body. If a person's aura is weak, he or she can be affected easily by other people's thoughts or feelings.

"I use this technique (closing the aura) every time I encounter people who seem to suck up my life energy. I would feel so drained after talking to them. Sometimes, they are not aware of it. This is because the person may be weak, they have a tendency to suck up life energy from other people. By simply crossing my arms and legs, this will prevent my energy to be drained," says Nunez.

Exercise also helps strengthen the aura. Regular exercise makes the body healthy and strong therefore making the aura healthy and strong as well. Like sweat, exercise also helps release dirty energy and body toxins.

Psychic self-defense may be just too much for the skeptic and conservative mind. You can throw out the mysticism of the idea and simply focus on what seems like common sense. Open your mind just a bit because psychic self-defense is not magic. It's a practical and enriching way of life.

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Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

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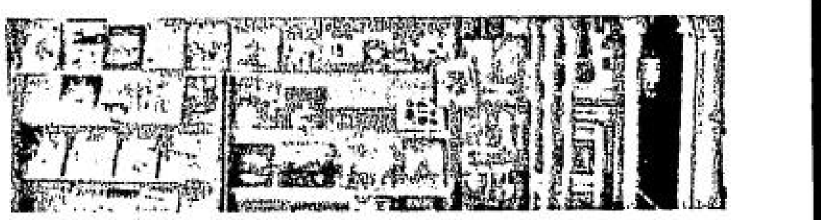
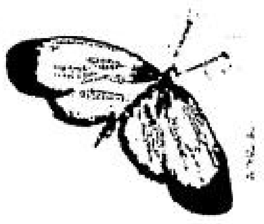


Secret Manila Part 1

If you think you know Metro Manila inside and out, think again. This week, we put the spotlight on great discoveries that give us more reasons to love this city. We have fantastic food finds, a young artist bringing color into children's lives, stores that would make your inner bookworm happy and nightspots that would give your social life a boost. We're spilling everything—because the best secrets are meant to be shared. And here's another one—this is only the first serving. Shhh!



City after dark

Text and photos by **Maui V. Reyes**

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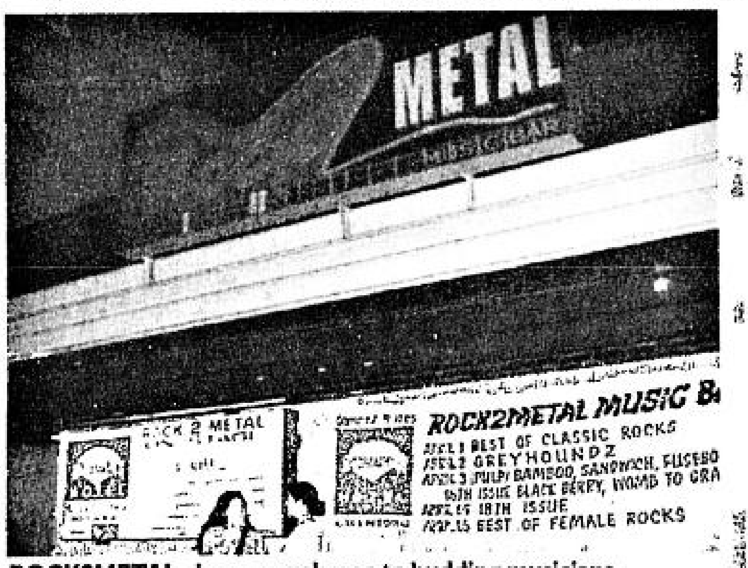
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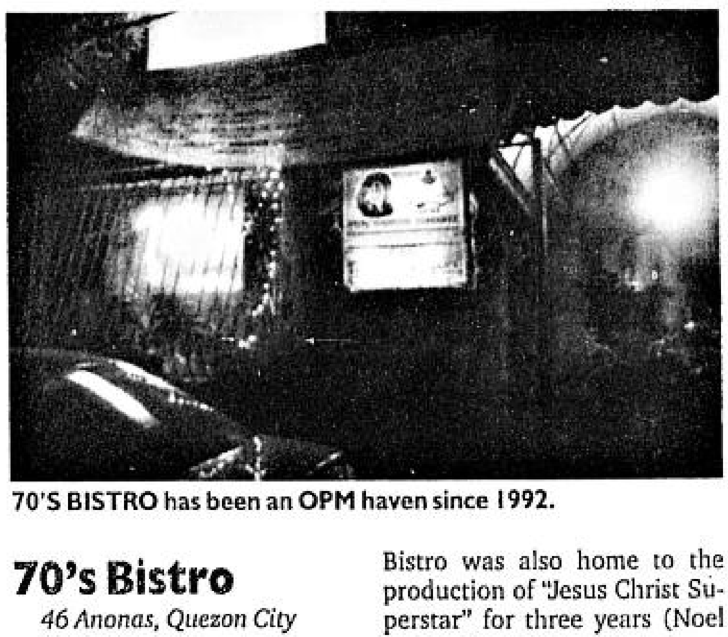
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Fork over: Around P150, which is consumable.

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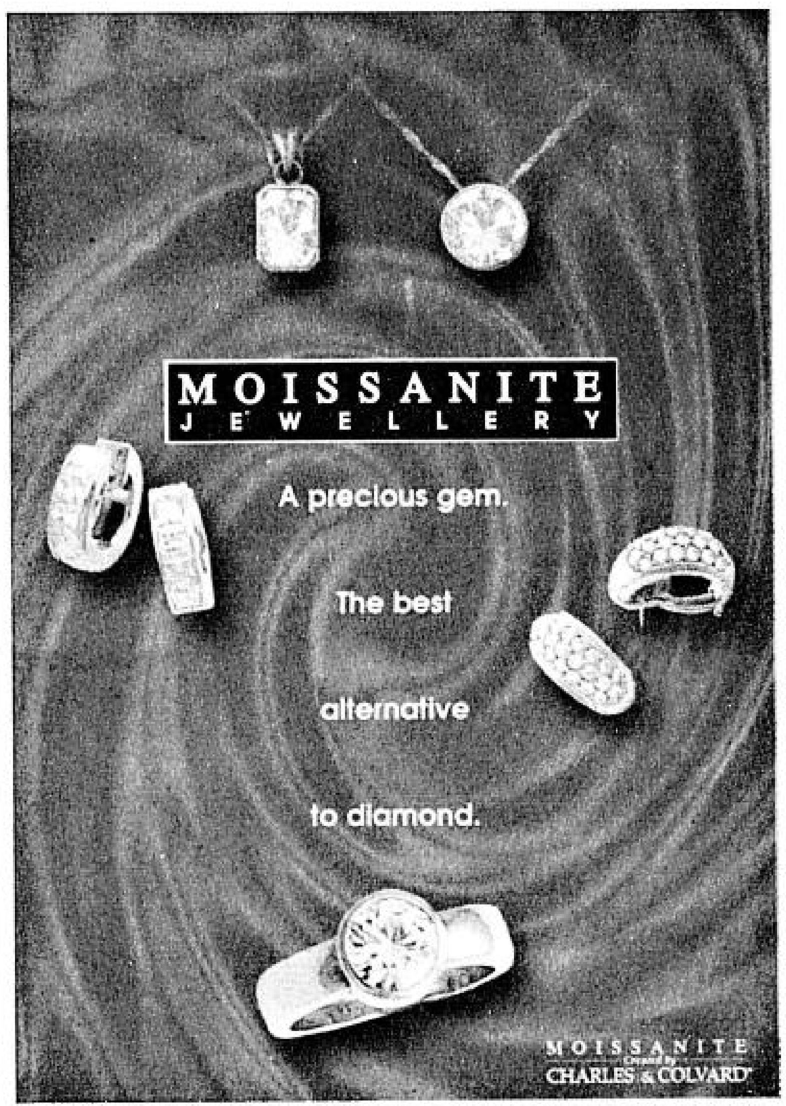
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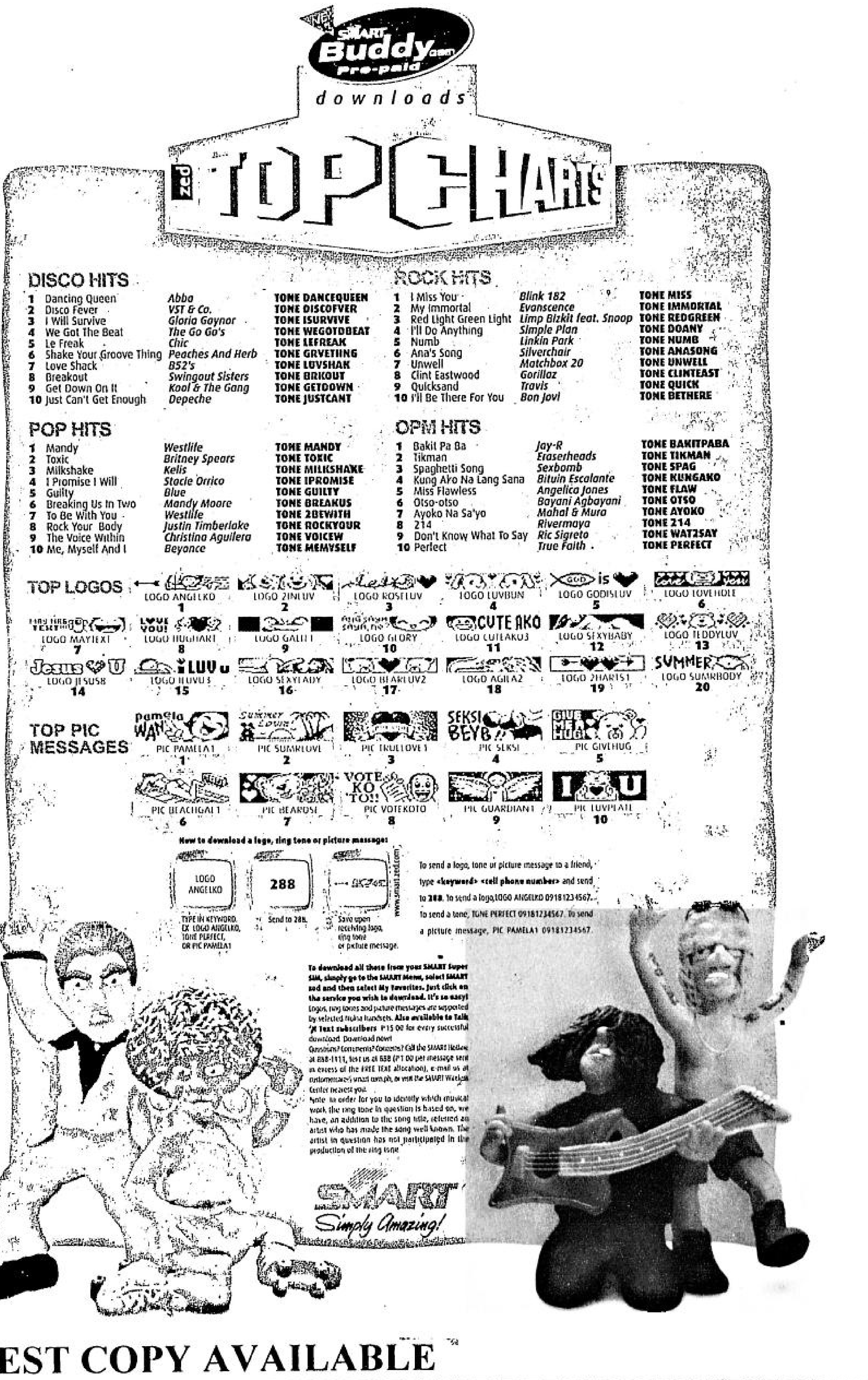
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TOP CHARTS

DISCO HITS

1	Dancing Queen	Abba	TONE DANCEQUEEN
2	Disco Fever	VST & Co.	TONE DISCOFVER
3	I Will Survive	Gloria Gaynor	TONE ISURVIVE
4	We Got The Beat	The Go Go's	TONE WEGOTDBEAT
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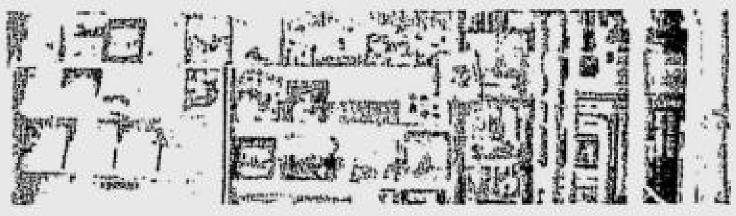

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2 METAL
ROCK2METAL MUSIC B

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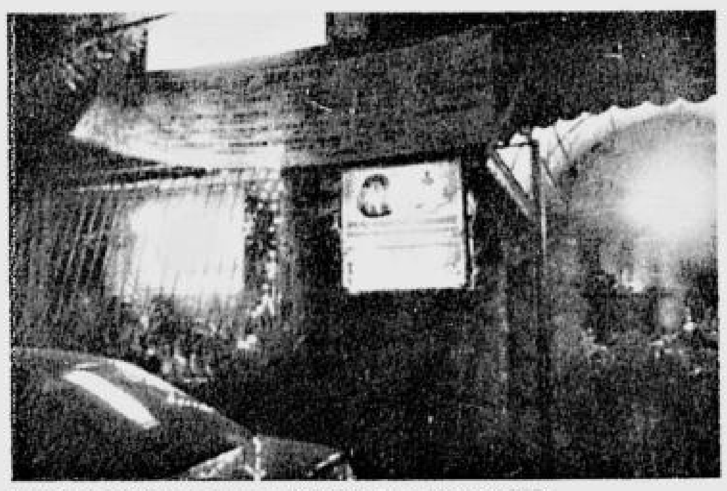

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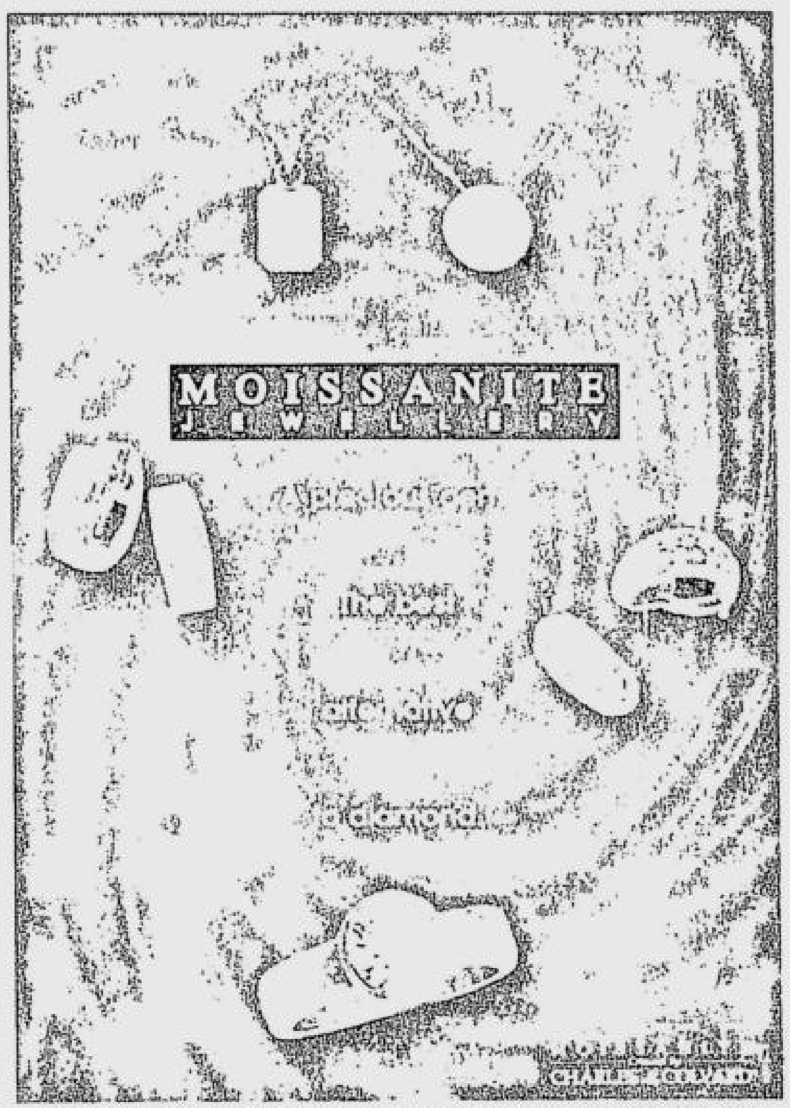
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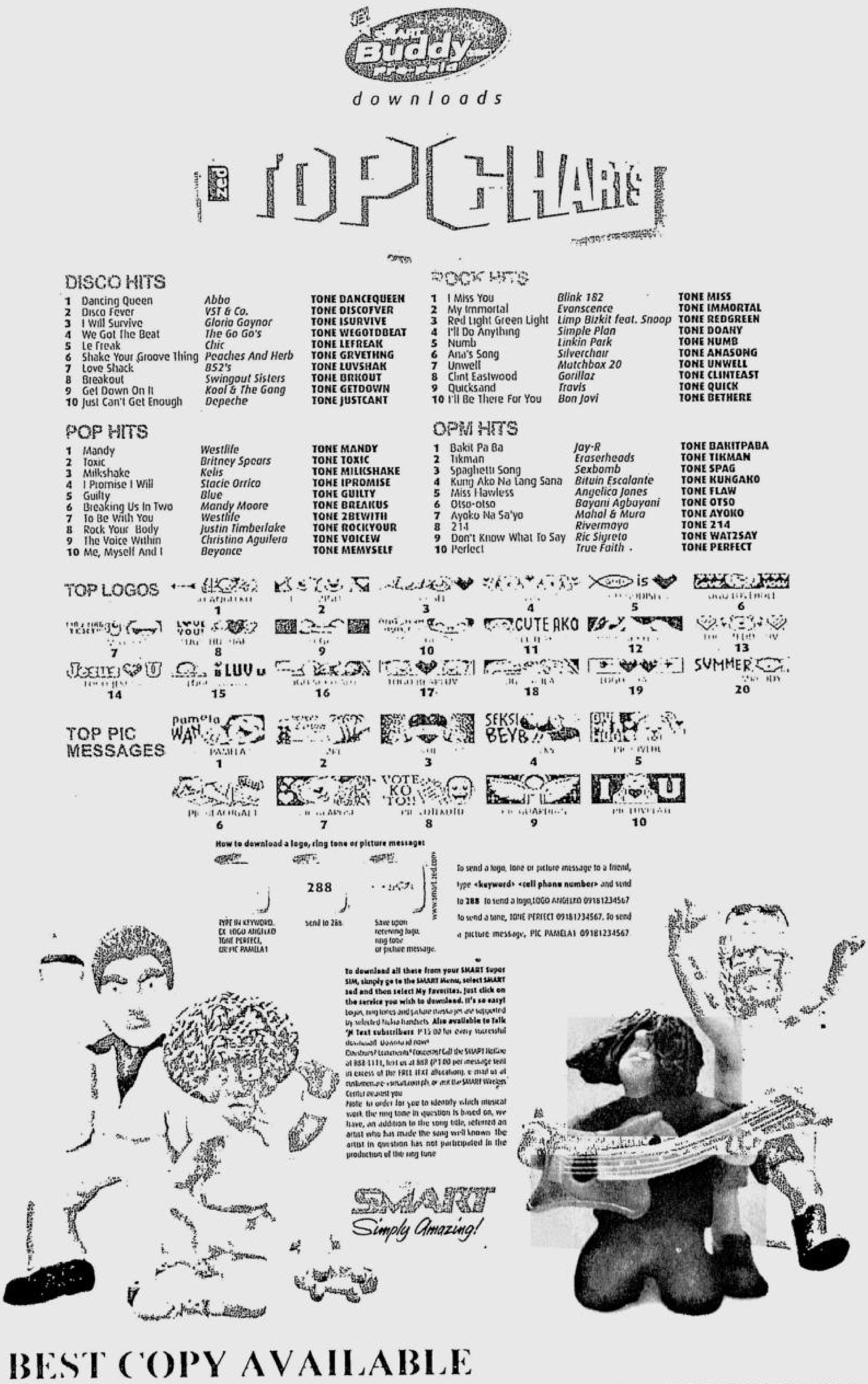
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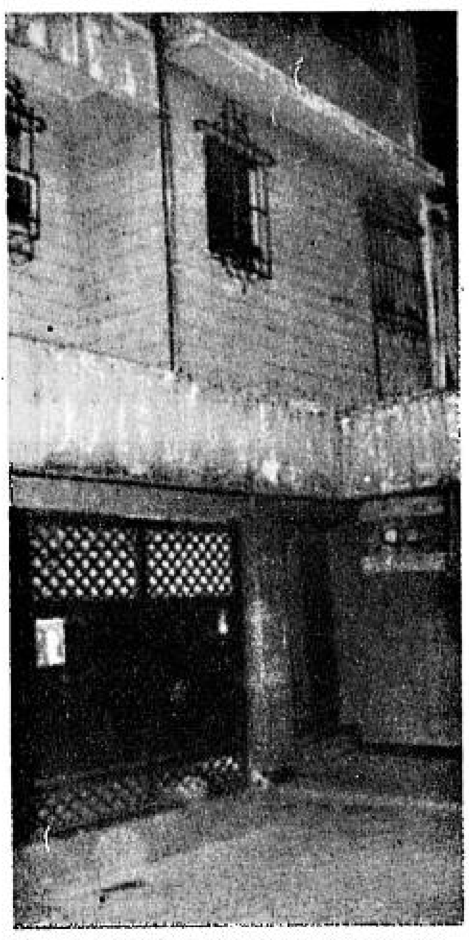


KILLAH John's entrance is up the stairs to the right. We told you it's hard to find.

Killah John

2 A. De Guzman St., Concepcion, Marikina (behind Mercury Drug)

Why it rocks: Owner John Carpio owned a studio where he'd let bands rehearse in. When people asked where musicians would hang out, they'd answer, "'kila John." That's how he got the name for the place. Carpio now holds gigs once a month inside his house. But don't expect top 40 hits at this place. Killah John is where members of the Manila Independent Movement (MAIM) hold their gigs—and they're not kidding about the indie part. They've turned down numerous sponsors and prefer to do things *their* way, giving a venue for underground bands to make some noise. It's also pretty hard to find this place, but for hardcore punk purists, this is a gold mine.

Now playing: MAIM musicians—Throw, End of Man, Tame the Tikbalang, Beauty of Doubt, and Demi Urge. Chances are, you've never heard of them, unless you're into the underground hardcore punk and metal scene. CDs and shirts of some bands can also be bought at the place.

Fork over: P30. And some punks even ask if they can get in for a cheaper price.

Grub cost: John only serves beer in can, which he sells for P25, and pica-pica like cheesesticks to keep the crowd happy.

May gig sked: The next MAIM gig has yet to be scheduled, but for heavy metal fans out there, the production BAKALLIZE will be held on May 1.

Conspiracy

59 Visayas Ave., Quezon City
Tel. 4532170

Why it rocks: It opened November last year, and is co-owned by Cynthia Alexander and Conrad de Quiros. The place is huge—there are tables outside, and two rooms inside, one for the gigs and another for those who prefer dining far from the music crowd. Candles are found everywhere, and it's got this peaceful atmosphere. You can get a henna tattoo at this place, plus there's a monthly exhibit where you can actually purchase artwork (this month it's the Kasibulan Women).

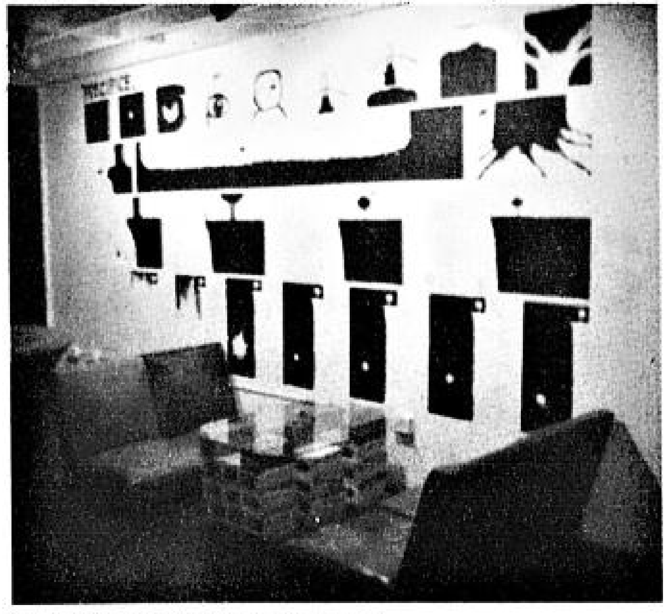
Now playing: Expect the likes of Joey Ayala, Noel Cabangon, Cookie Chua. Thursdays are also Indian Music Nights. It's more of an acoustic, laid-back gig spot than a hard rockin' place.

Fork over: Around P75 for a Cynthia Alexander gig.

Grub cost: San Miguel products go for P30 a pop. Since this is more of a restaurant, the bestsellers are the Beef Caldereta (P175), Sizzling Tofu (P75), Fish Tempura (P130), and a wide array of vegetarian selections.

April gig sked: Check out Cookie Chua with Affinity tonight, and Noli Aurillo with Rannie Raymundo on Friday.

HOMEY and serene, this hallway is the first thing that greets you inside.



ONE of Big Sky's April art exhibits

Big Sky Mind

66B Doña Juana Rodriguez, New Manila

Why it rocks: Big Sky opened in October 1999 as an arts place-cum-café. Since people poured in at night, the café turned into a bar, and a year after, Pinwheel and Pinikpikan started holding gigs. This homey place now hosts performances every Friday, and holds art exhibits every month (right now it's "Komikera"). You can also purchase CDs by the bar.

Now playing: Owner Cindy is okay with any band that wants to play, as long as the line-up is made up of originals. Bands that have graced the tiny venue include <s>andwich, Imago, Ciudad, Drip, and Cambio.

Fork over: P50 for Friday gigs

Grub cost: San Mig Light costs P40, and most regulars order cheese squares (P70), Bolognese (P110), nachos (P70), or Salisbury Steak (P130).

May gig sked: 7, Paramita. 15, Triple A Production (Anti-Alcoholics Anonymous). 21, Radioactive Sago Project, Wahijuara, Quaill Trio, Third World Project. 28, Electronica Manila.

PELIGRO'S first floor and its rockin' scene

Peligro

Republic Glass Building, Aguirre cor. Salcedo Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati
Tel. 8120952

Why it rocks: The concept was a place where two types of crowds can hang out: those who like hard rock and those who like to dance. Thus, the first floor holds band performances while the second floor houses DJs.

Now playing: Bamboo, Kapatid, Dirt. This was also where Wolfgang held their reunion gig back in February.

Fork over: There's no entrance fee! Yay!

Grub cost: Happy hour starts at 5 p.m. and ends at 9 p.m., so get your fill of P35 beer at that time (price goes back to P60 after 9 p.m.), plus 2-for-1 Jaggermeisters, Chivas Regal and Jack Daniels. They're also the only bar with "De Puta Madre," a cocktail that consists of Jaggermeister and Red Bull. The food's a bit pricey, but the owners swear you have to try their Salpicado (P220), Gambas (P220), fresh oysters (P170) and hamburgers (P180).

May gig sked: Catch Kjwan on May 7.

MUSIC that's easy on the ears

Star Tavern

315 E. Rodriguez Ave., Q.C. (beside Stone House apartelle)
Tel. 7247551

Why it rocks: If you're into hotel singers, bossa nova and jazz, then this place is for you. It opened in 1994, and it's basically a music lounge with female chanteuse singers.

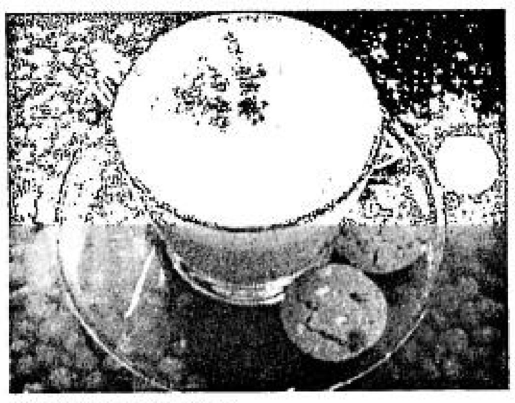
Now playing: Tuesday is mainstream Jazz night, Wednesday is '70s night, and Friday is Bossa night—which we think totally rocks. There's a grill place on the top floor that's only open on Fridays, where you can listen to Sitti & The Cubano while chilling with a view of Quezon City at night.

Fork over: No cover charge! Wahoo!

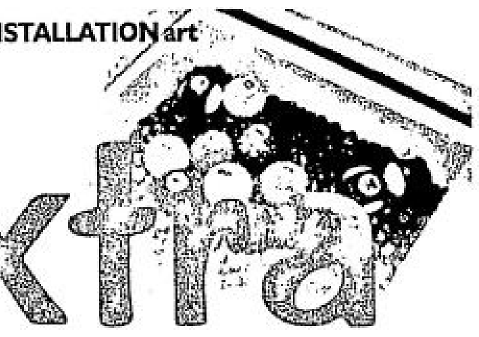
Grub cost: Star Tavern's beer costs P55, while Penthouse Grill's (the one that's open on Fridays) goes for P45. The Italian pizza (P195) is a bestseller, as well as the Sisig (P85).

Always something extra here

Text and photos by Pam Pastor



CAPPUCCINO, P45



INSTALLATION art

MERYL-ANN Miranda and her dad, former Las Piñas councilor Ato Miranda

NOW I know where my boyfriend disappears to on Friday nights.

The place is called Ato's Rack Billiards and Coffeenista—a multi-level haven for multi-level thrill seekers.

Opened in November of 2001, the place is run by siblings 23-year-old Marco and 21-year-old Meryl-Ann Miranda, along with their parents.

Meryl, who is Ato's Rack's operations manager, gave us the grand tour.

Original concept

Coffeenista, an original concept that combines the coziness of a coffee shop and the irresistible pull of a videoke hangout, is homey. It's a perfect picture of comfort, thanks to Min Fortaleza's interior design magic. Countless color-coordinated throw pillows line the seats, glass-encased coffee bean displays act as tables while framed prints add to the place's relaxed atmosphere.

The same relaxed atmosphere can be enjoyed at Ato's 1, the non-smoking billiards area, and Ato's 2, the billiards area for smokers. There are beanbags and plush chairs all over the place.

It's like hanging out at a good friend's place.

Aside from billiards and videoke, one can also enjoy games of darts and chess and even go online at Ato's Rack.

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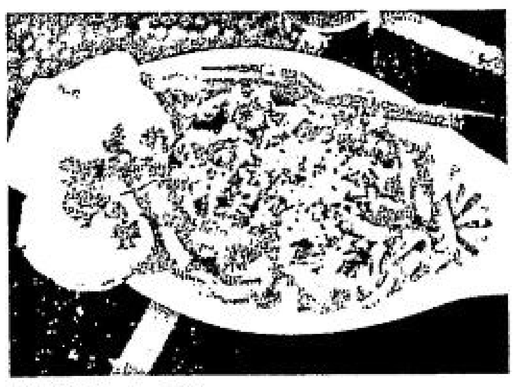
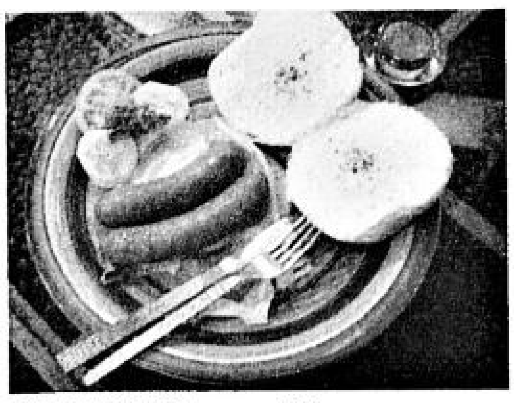
Other items in the menu include all kinds of coffees, tea infusions, hot and cold drinks, shakes and alcoholic beverages. There are sandwiches, finger food, crêpes, ice cream and pastries.

The tuna pasta (P50) is flavorful and slightly spicy. The mocha frappe (P60) is served with a wafer stick, tiny balls of candy and cinnamon. The cappuccino (P45) is served with two small cookies.

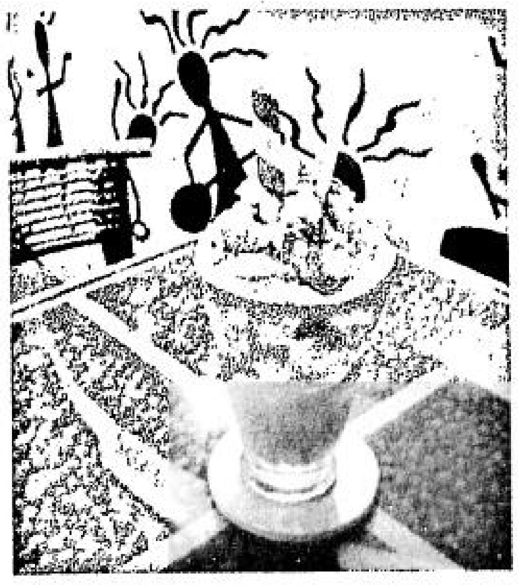
Says one loyal patron, "You can always expect something extra here."



TUNA Pasta, P50



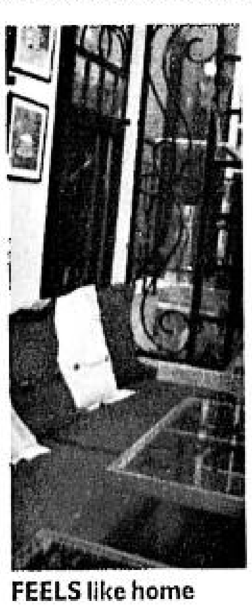
HUNGARIAN Sausage, P60



MOCHA Frappe, P60

Coffeenista

A MULTI-level haven for multi-level thrill seekers



FEELS like home

Affordable

Yes, the keyword here is affordable.

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There was even a time when people who played billiards for an hour got a glass of free iced tea or one shot of tequila.

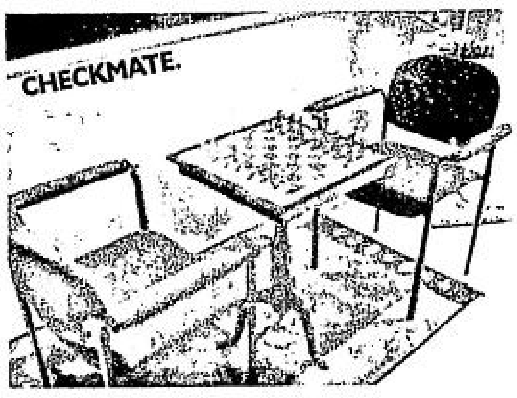
"We're going to bring that back," Meryl said.

The Mirandas take pride in their family-run business. Everything, from the menu to the promos, is decided by all of them. "It's a family effort," Meryl said with a smile.

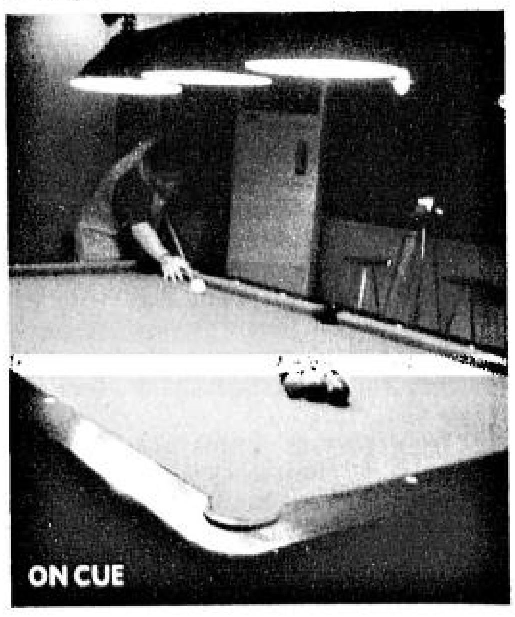
And the system really works, because Ato's Rack feels like home, even during your first visit.

Ato's Rack is in ATO Building J. Aguilar Avenue, Casimiro or CAA Road Talon Tres, Las Piñas City. It is open from Mondays to Saturdays from 5 p.m. onwards. On Sundays, only Ato's 1 is open. Call 8745729 or 0917-5329853 or e-mail atosrack@lycos.com and atosrackcoffeenista@lycos.com

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.



CHECKMATE.



ON CUE

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City after dark

KILLAH John's entrance is up the stairs to the right. We told you it's hard to find.

Killah John

2 A. De Guzman St., Concepcion, Marikina (behind Mercury Drug)

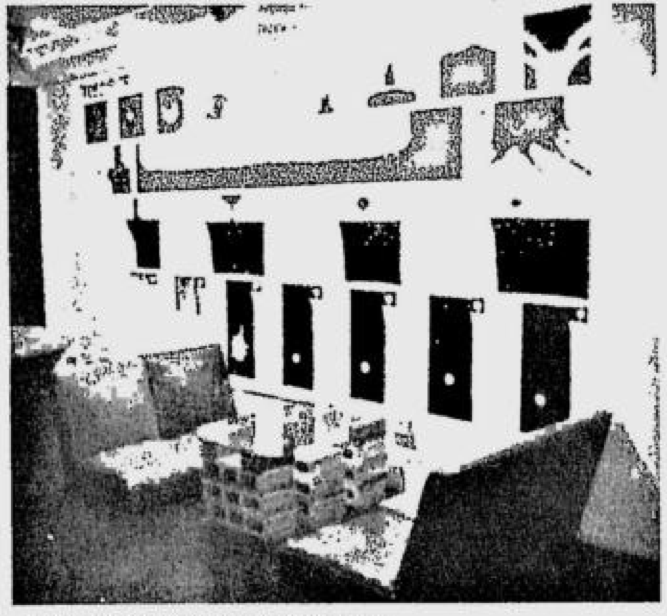
Why it rocks: Owner John Carpio owned a studio where he'd let bands rehearse in. When people asked where musicians would hang out, they'd answer, "'kila John." That's how he got the name for the place. Carpio now holds gigs once a month inside his house. But don't expect top 40 hits at this place. Killah John is where members of the Manila Independent Movement (MAIM) hold their gigs—and they're not kidding about the indie part. They've turned down numerous sponsors and prefer to do things *their* way, giving a venue for underground bands to make some noise. It's also pretty hard to find this place, but for hardcore punk purists, this is a gold mine.

Now playing: MAIM musicians—Throw, End of Man, Tame the Tikbalang, Beauty of Doubt, and Demi Urge. Chances are, you've never heard of them, unless you're into the underground hardcore punk and metal scene. CDs and shirts of some bands can also be bought at the place.

Fork over: P30. And some punks even ask if they can get in for a cheaper price.

Grub cost: John only serves beer in can, which he sells for P25, and pica-pica like cheesesticks to keep the crowd happy.

May gig sked: The next MAIM gig has yet to be scheduled, but for heavy metal fans out there, the production BAKALLIZE will be held on May 1.



ONE of Big Sky's April art exhibits

Big Sky Mind

66B Doña Juana Rodriguez, New Manila

Why it rocks: Big Sky opened in October 1999 as an arts place-cum-café. Since people poured in at night, the café turned into a bar, and a year after, Pinwheel and Pinikpikan started holding gigs. This homey place now hosts performances every Friday, and holds art exhibits every month (right now it's "Komikera"). You can also purchase CDs by the bar.

Now playing: Owner Cindy is okay with any band that wants to play, as long as the line-up is made up of originals. Bands that have graced the tiny venue include <s>andwich, Imago, Ciudad, Drip, and Cambio.

Fork over: P50 for Friday gigs

Grub cost: San Mig Light costs P40, and most regulars order cheese squares (P70), Bolognese (P110), nachos (P70), or Salisbury Steak (P130).

May gig sked: 7, Paramita. 15, Triple A Production (Anti-Alcoholics Anonymous). 21, Radioactive Sago Project, Wahijuara, Quaill Trio, Third World Project. 28, Electronica Manila.

Conspiracy

59 Visayas Ave., Quezon City
Tel. 4532170

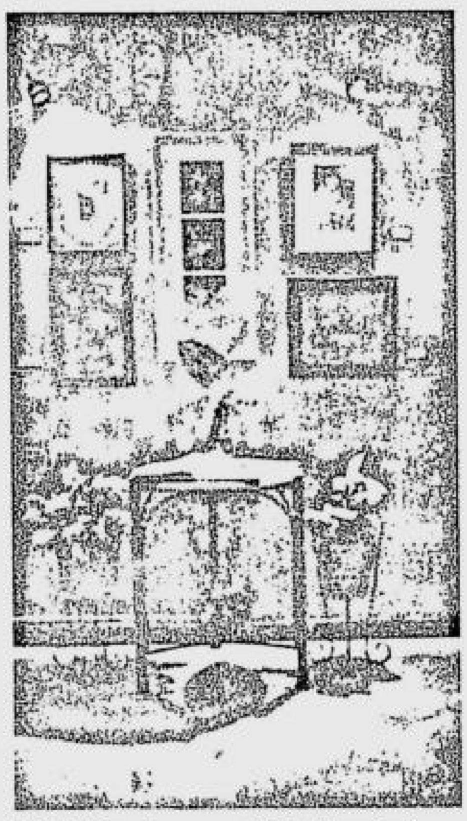
Why it rocks: It opened November last year, and is co-owned by Cynthia Alexander and Conrad de Quiros. The place is huge—there are tables outside, and two rooms inside, one for the gigs and another for those who prefer dining far from the music crowd. Candles are found everywhe[illegible] and it's got this peaceful atmosphere. You c[illegible] get a henna tattoo at this place, plu[illegible] the [illegible] monthly exhibit where you can actually purchase artwork (thi[illegible] month i[illegible] the Kasibulan Women).

Now playing: [illegible] ala, Noel Cabangon [illegible] lays are also Indian M[illegible] an acoustic, laid-back [illegible] rockin' place

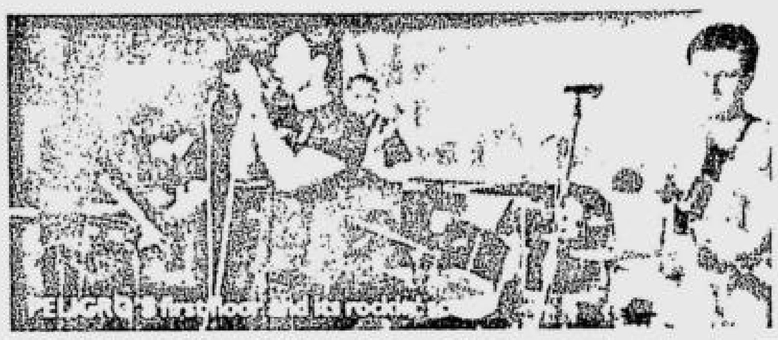
Fork over: [illegible] 7[illegible] Alexander gig[illegible]

Grub cost: [illegible] or P30 a pop. Since [illegible] nor[illegible] ar the bestsellers are [illegible] of C[illegible] (P[illegible] Sizzling Tofu ([illegible] mp[illegible] (P[illegible] wide array [illegible] etai[illegible]

April gig sked: [illegible] with Affinity [illegible] with Rannie Ray[illegible]



HOMEY and serene, this hallway is the first thing that greets you inside.



Peligro

Republic Glass Building, Aguirre cor. Salcedo Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati
Tel. 8120952

Why it rocks: The concept was a place where two types of crowds can hang out: those who like hard rock and those who like to dance. Thus, the first floor holds band performances while the second floor houses DJs.

Now playing: Bamboo, Kapatid, Dirt. This was also where Wolfgang held their reunion gig back in February.

Fork over: There's no entrance fee! Yay!

Grub cost: Happy hour starts at 5 p.m. and ends at 9 p.m., so get your fill of P35 beer at that time (price goes back to P60 after 9 p.m.), plus 2-for-1 Jaggermeisters, Chivas Regal and Jack Daniels. They're also the only bar with "De Puta Madre," a cocktail that consists of Jaggermeister and Red Bull. The food's a bit pricey, but the owners swear you have to try their Salpicado (P220), Gambas (P220), fresh oysters (P170) and hamburgers (P180).

May gig sked: Catch Kjwan on May 7.

MUSIC that's easy on the ears

Star Tavern

315 E. Rodriguez Ave., Q.C. (beside Stone House apartelle)
Tel. 7247551

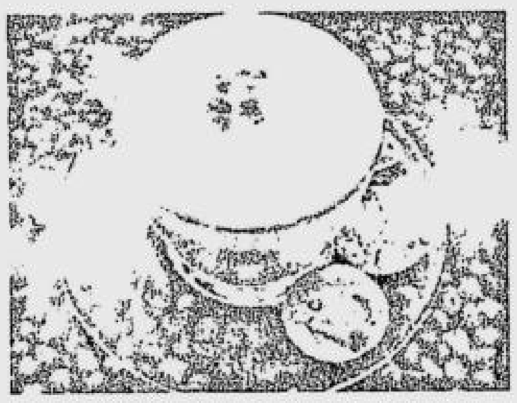
Why it rocks: If you're into hotel singers, bossa nova and jazz, then this place is for you. It opened in 1994, and it's basically a music lounge with female chanteuse singers.

Now playing: Tuesday is mainstream Jazz night, Wednesday is '70s night, and Friday is Bossa night—which we think totally rocks. There's a grill place on the top floor that's only open on Fridays, where you can listen to Sitti & The Cubano while chilling with a view of Quezon City at night.

Fork over: No cover charge! Wahoo!

Grub cost: Star Tavern's beer costs P55, while Penthouse Grill's (the one that's open on Fridays) goes for P45. The Italian pizza (P195) is a bestseller, as well as the Sisig (P85).

Always something extra here

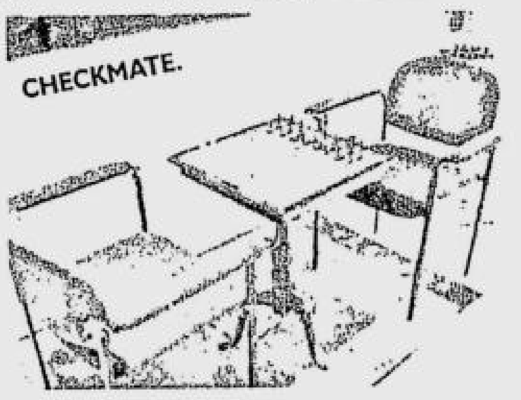


CAPPUCCINO, P45

INSTALLATION art

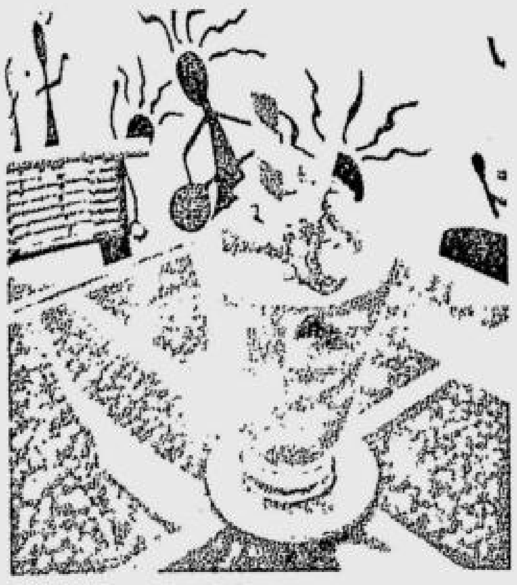
MERYL-ANN Miranda and her dad, former Las Piñas councilor Ato Miranda

TUNA Pasta, P50



CHECKMATE.

HUNGARIAN Sausage, P60



MOCHA Frappe, P60

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

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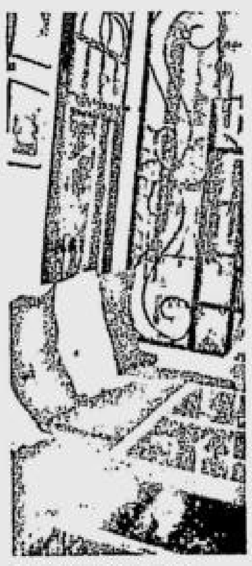
A MULTI-level haven for multi-level thrill seekers



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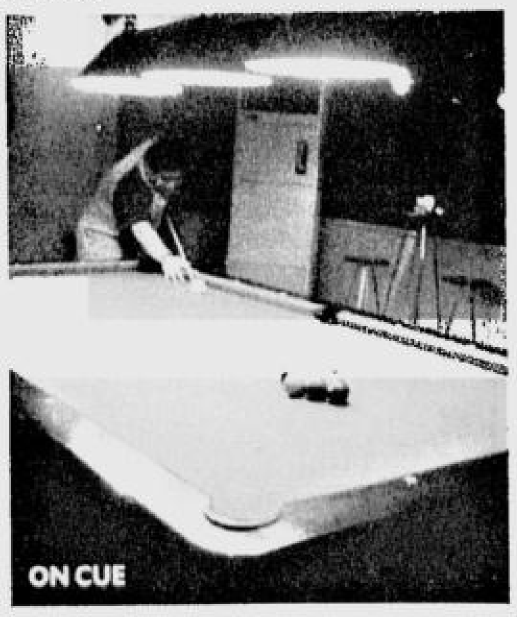
E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.



ON CUE

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A bookworm's refuge

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

IN the Philippines, where many—if not most—people are not much into book reading, it is understandable if the range of choices is rather limited even if giants like PowerBooks and National Book Store both carry excellent titles. But thanks to the recent rise of independent bookstores (establishments not attached to major chains), Filipino book lovers may yet find that the choices available to them have significantly increased.

Booktopia is a big little store offering a wide range of titles in a variety of genres

One establishment that is getting rave reviews since it opened in August is Booktopia. Situated on the second floor of Intrepid Plaza, beside Citibank Tower in Libis, it is owned by the Dimaguila family and run by sisters Rowena and Jen.

Rowena says they have always wanted to open a bookstore since they were children. "We used to go to National Bookstore and then we wanted to have our own. Sometimes, when we visit another bookstore, we see different ideas and *parang gusto mo rin nang ganoon*."

Bestsellers

The name was suggested by a friend and the store tries to live up to it. Booktopia offers a wide range of titles in different genres, from poetry to science fiction, self-help to children's books, religion to comic books. The sisters research best-selling titles to come up with a great selection. Examples are "Girl with a Pearl Earring," "The Eyre Affair" and "Life of Pi." Popular authors whose books are carried by the store include Angela Carter, Dan Brown, Isaac Asimov, Ian Fleming.

What distinguishes the small store is not so much number as quality of the books. It has hardcover editions of collected science fiction stories, gothic and horror literature, and poetry. The travel section has copies of "Under the Tuscan Sun."

Rare titles can be found in the children's literature section, including the "Wizard of Oz" books.

Price

Compared to other bookstores, prices at Booktopia are relatively lower. Hardcover editions of the works of Arturo Perez-Reverte sell for a little over P700, the price in another bookstore of a paperback edition. The popular "Eyewitness Travel Guides" sells for P720 in Booktopia, while costing over a thousand pesos in another bookstore.

The store also knows how to handle books. Big bookstores hardly give books TLC. But in Booktopia, books are treated reverently. Each book also comes with a free bookmark.

And to get people more excited about reading, Booktopia offers promos on a regular basis. This month, they have a summer reading promo. You get a five-percent discount if you buy one book, 10 percent if you buy two, 15 percent if you get three or four and 20 percent if you buy five or more books.

Efficient use of space

Although the area is small, the layout is well-planned. Books on the shelves are clearly labeled and alphabetized. Chairs and mattresses are set up in the middle and the sides of the room for readers to check out in comfort a book they find interesting.

Children can be comfortable on pillows and child-size chairs as they enjoy new literature written for them.

Rowena says the best thing about owning a bookstore is you get your own choices instead of relying on someone else's selection. "You also get to meet other readers and discuss books with them, so it's fun," she adds.

Asked if the store is starting to pay off, she replies, "I'm kinda happy with how it's doing, (but) it'll get better, I'm sure."

With so many great titles to choose from, it certainly will.

Booktopia is at Unit 209, Intrepid Plaza, E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Barangay Bagumbayan, QC. Call 6346544.

E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com

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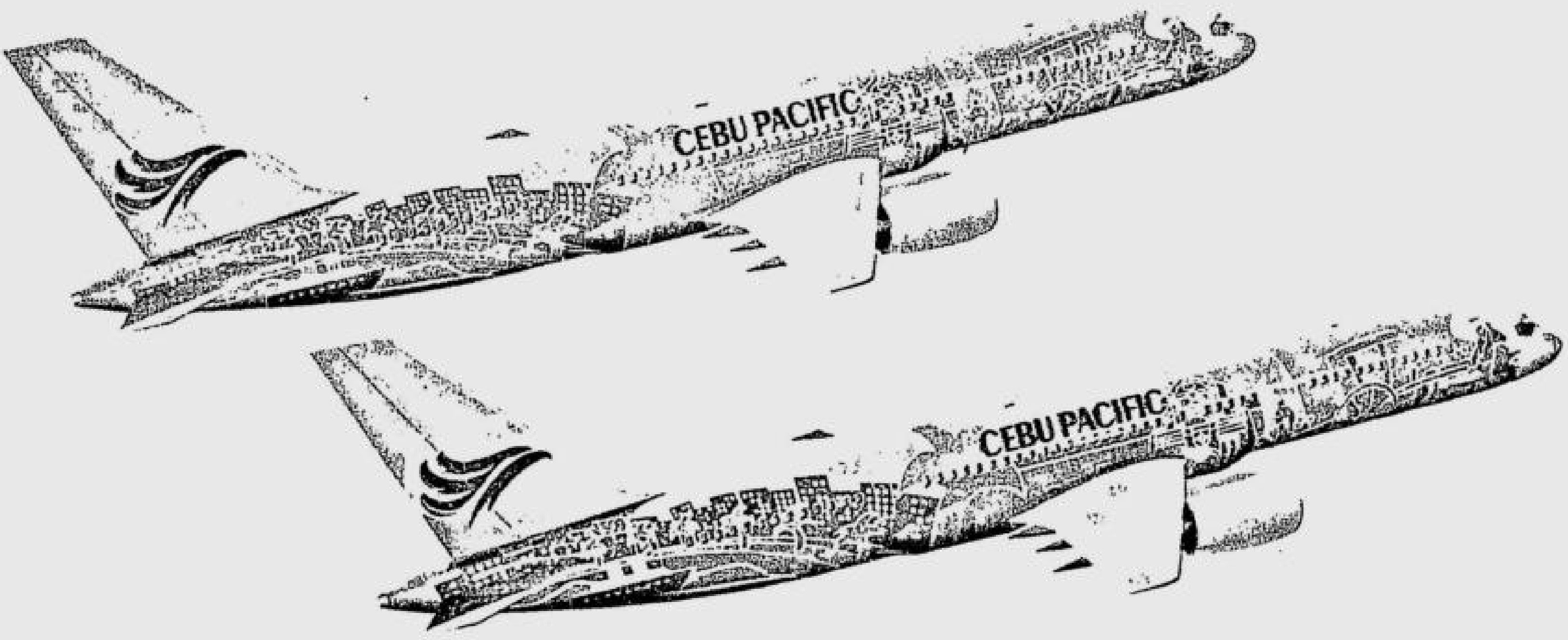

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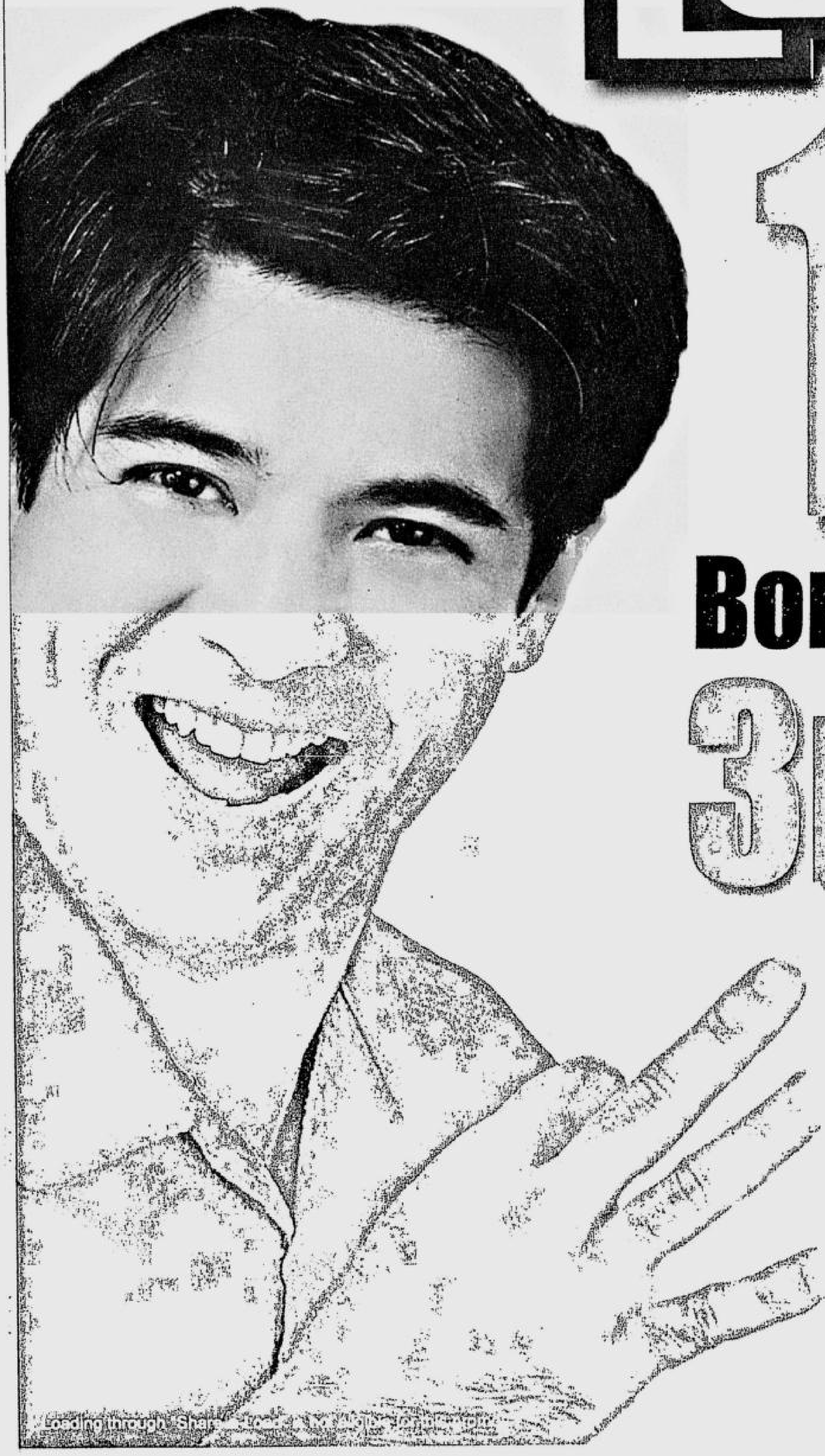
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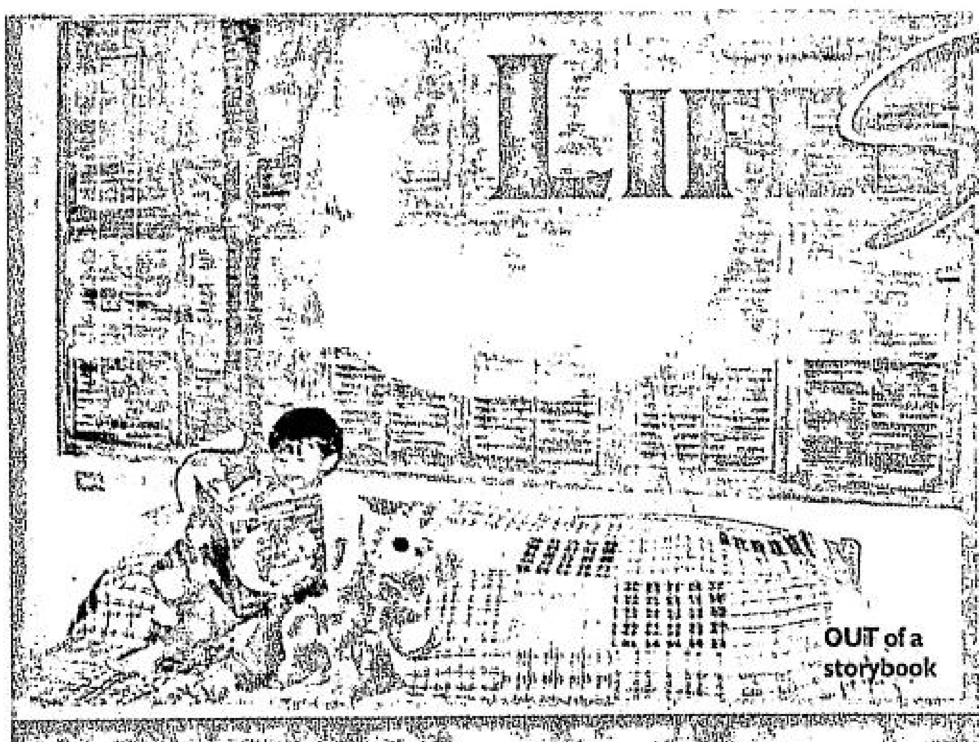

OUT of a storybook

Chona San Gabriel-Caedo is an artist who specializes in decorating children's rooms with fun, colorful designs

Out of the whims of babes

CHONA San Gabriel-Caedo

Text and Photos by Paolo R. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

ART, at least in some circles, is often regarded as the arena of the highbrow, a recreation riddled with unwarranted affectation, a pursuit fraught with passion as well as pageantry.

But in the whimsical world of Chona L. San Gabriel-Caedo, the sometimes overbearing and imperious nature of art has been tempered to take on a more credulous and unfeigned form.

Caedo, to the fortunate few who have had the opportunity to employ her creative services, is an artist and painter of a rarefied kind.

She is a designer who specializes in decorating children's rooms by embellishing the walls and furniture with fanciful drawings in the style of the kids' favorite storybooks and fairy tales.

Kiddie illustrations

For the 38-year-old AB Psychology graduate of the Assumption, it was a career that fortuitously began during the renovation of her new home.

"I didn't like the outcome of the painter's work in my son's room, both in color and texture, so I ended up mixing my own colors and painting them myself using illustrations from my collection of children's books," she says.

"I remember the paintings were so huge compared to the drawings in the book that I just felt overcome by a wave of fulfillment and excitement. Soon, friends and family who saw it asked if I could do the same for their own children's rooms. It just fell into place from there, I guess."

According to Caedo, the process, though quite daunting in the beginning, is actually quite simple. "First, I arrange for a meeting with the client and do an inspection of the room to be painted. Then I gather data about their children: age, sex, likes, interests. I research on possible ideas that put into consideration the client's needs. I then suggest a theme that matches the wall's color, size and configuration as well as the furniture," she explains.

"For instance, I recently painted a room for a newborn boy which had existing fixed cabinets with a leopard-like finish. At first, the clients wanted to remove everything, but I suggested that they keep it and save the renovation when he gets bigger. I chose an African jungle theme to match the cabinets. The design totally complemented the room as well as the modern look of the home."

Her gallery of exotic creations includes Eric Carle-styled jungles and forests, a "Little Prince" nursery, as well as a host of imaginative wall designs inspired by Shel Silverstein ("The Giving Tree"), "Dr. Seuss,"

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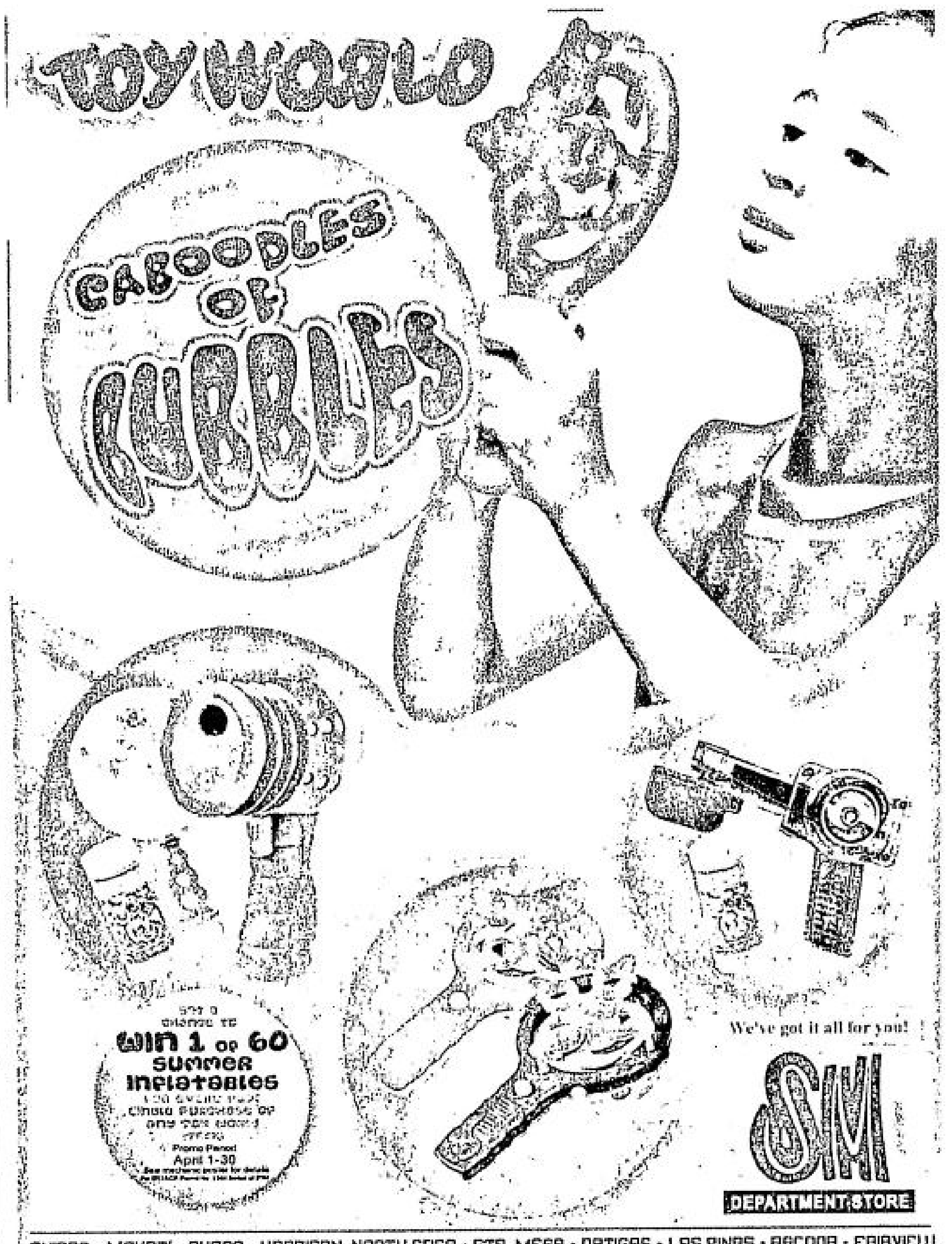

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SWEET N' LOW. Chingpay Andrada and Hans Montenegro

TWO TONE. Andrew Donovan and Tee Cordero.

FIT TO A T. Thea Kriegl is a knock-out.

MOSSIMO MEN. Rene Go and Adamson Bactat

BORA BUDS. Jun Jun Poblador and Rita Santos of Pearl

HE'S GOT THE BEAT. Myke Salomon

TRULY Asia Laurel.

MATTHEW Lopez from the block

THREE KINGS. Carlos Laviste, Gerhard Acao and Marcin Ijckain

MASTERS OF THE BIKINI SUMMIT TJ Manotoc and Angel Jacob

TOP DRAWS. Marco Grazzini, Eugene Lee and Thea Kriegl

WITH last year's winner, Brent Javier.

R&B. Luke Mejares and JM Rodriguez.

It was an itsy bitsy teeny weeny. . .

Tim Yap

YELLOW, flesh, striped, feathered and black bikinis—these were worn by all the contestants that had gathered at the Pearl of the Pacific in Boracay to witness the Mossimo Bikini Summit 2004.

Lifestyle guru **Thelma San Juan** is right—we are a "generation of strippers." Each one more proud of his/ her body than the next guy or gal, willing to display and be displayed. The beach becomes one long ramp where the babes and boys sashay with wild abandon.

For the ones showcasing their wares, the motto is "Look, but don't touch." For the teasers in all of us, it's "touch, but don't taste." Forgive me for bombarding you with photos of scantily clad men and women every week in this space—it's just that this summer is especially hot, prompting the unintended striptease.

So while we're at it, instead of salivating, let's just make our bodies better. Go to Gold's and book yourself a training session with **Jerry Rieta** (responsible for the bodies of supermodels **Verns Buckley, 2tay Maristela, Nina Naval** and actor **Carlos Agassi**, among other celebrities) and you'll see the difference.

Looking at the Mossimo dudes' sculpted torsos sure made me jealous, but it inspired me to get more addicted to the gym. Everyday I'd see these guys and gals at Gold's Gym—and boy, they really do work hard for that body—to the point of insanity. But hey, there's no such thing as addicted to health, right? (Incidentally, Gold's just opened a new branch in Galleria.)

So what makes this pageant so hot that every year, throngs of model and showbiz wannabes line up for the short list? Movie actors **Carlo Maceda** and **Jordan Herrera** are Mossimo alumni, and so is male supermodel **Brent Javier.** The female winners have yet to make a dent in the industry, though.

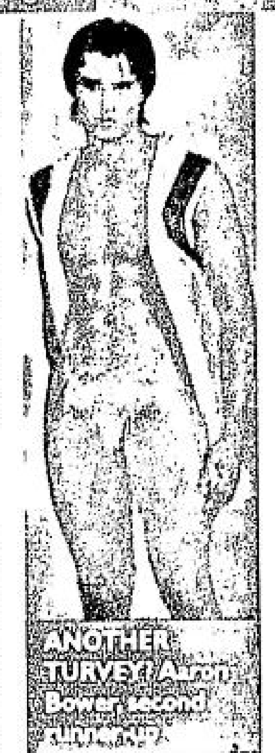
TIPTOP FORM: Myke Salomon and Asia Laurel

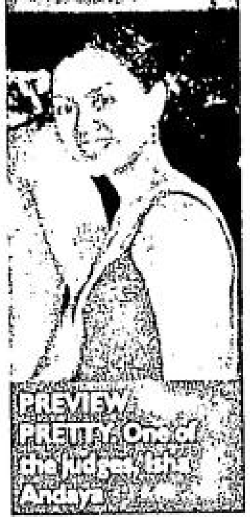
Best batch

Maybe this year will be different, with female winners **Thea Kriegl** (who is a dead-ringer for **Bianca Araneta**), **Tee Cordero** (a **Raya Manaquil**-meets-**Bianca Valerio** beauty who is a VJ for MTV Italy) and Cebuana beauty **Asia Laurel** (who reminds me of model **Maricris Perez** with **Wilma Doesnt** hair. Sorry girls, I'm really into look-alikes). "This is the best batch in the pageant's history," said Mossimo's **Rene Go**, one of my co-judges.

"The male finalists are world-class," opined fashion director **Robbie Carmona,** who for once, sat down in the audience area as he tried to spot modeling's next big thing.

Among the men, the guy whose tongue can tickle with four languages naturally wins. Fil-Italian-Canadian **Marco Grazzini** (looks exactly like photographer **Victor Consunji**) cinched the title, while **Myke Salomon** (aka DJ **Myke Beatbox** of Akafellas) placed first runner-up. Myke displayed more than just his body during the Q&A round with **Angel Jacob** (who was the real star of the show as its brilliant, charming and funny host) when he did a live "beat box" session. There's Mr. Talent right there.


ANOTHER TURVEY: Aaron Bower second runner-up


PREVIEW PRETTY: One of the judges, Isha Andaya

And why does he deserve the prize? 'Coz he fought against type, being the lone Pinoy-looking dude in the top six and shorter than the rest. But what he lacked in height and genetic composition he made up for in determination and physique proportion.

Third place, meanwhile, went to **Aaron Bower** (who can be the third Turvey brother).

If you weren't in Boracay that week, catch the TV special which airs this Sunday on RPN 9. Go ahead and drool.

Hot hops

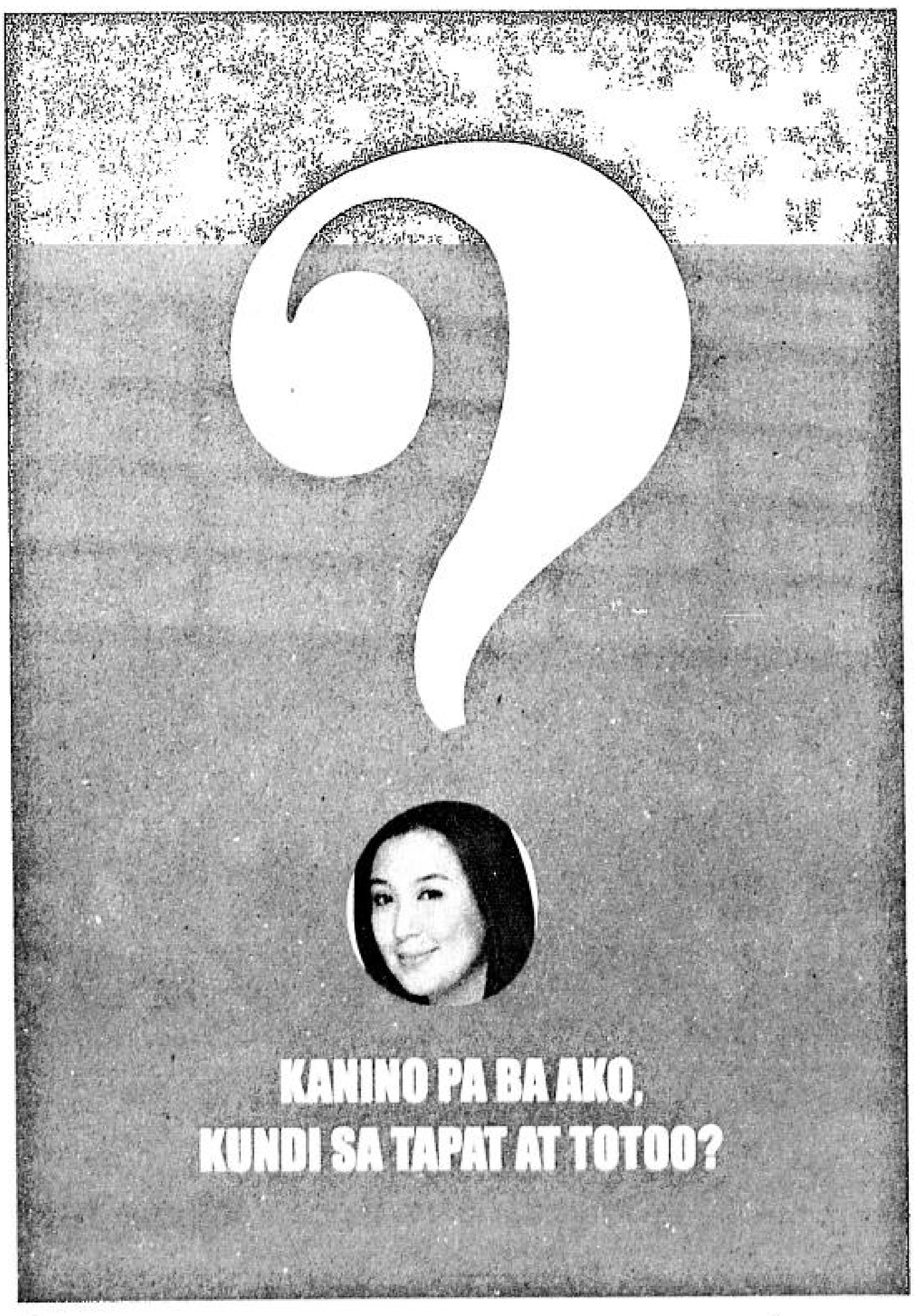
The Philippine Fashion Week continues this week with mall fashion shebangs at the Glorietta Activity Center. Just hop to the "mall we love" at about 6 pm and witness Philippine fashion at its best.

Friday, the Inquirer hosts the official Fashion Week closing party at Red at Makati Shangri-La. **Tessa Prieto-Valdes** and I will be the hosts, and we promise to churn out fun, fun awards all in the name of fashion!

Saturday, and it's time for "Big Love!"— a rare gathering of the scene's best music meisters. You'd think it was impossible to get Big Fish's TC, NBK's **Manolet Dario** and **David Jacob** (with **Jon** and **Marc Naval**) in one roof, but hey, it's happening this May 1 weekend at the NBC Tent.

Pre-party with **Benjo Marquez** and **Chip dela Calzada** at Yaku, post party at V bar with **Nicky Jurado.** It's party time!

"Relive the vibe of yesterday, dance to the music of today." Have a Super! week ahead, dear partyphiles.



Out of the whims . . .

From page D1

"Winnie the Pooh" and Maurice Sendak ("Where The Wild Things Are").

These themes are made all the more eye-catching through a kaleidoscope of multi-colored hues, a fine attention to detail, and the all-pervading vision of lighthearted, fanciful reality.

Avid collectors

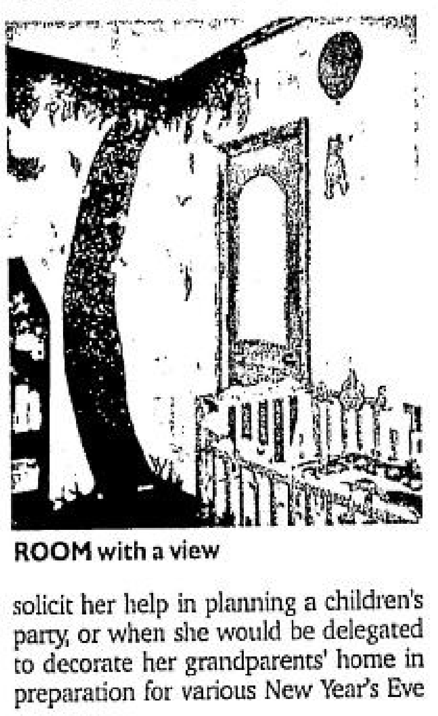
It was only natural for Caedo, a former pre-school teacher at her alma mater, to be inclined towards the arts, having grown up in an atmosphere steeped in the appreciation of visual aesthetics.

Her father, Dr. Jose San Gabriel, as well as some members of her mother's family, the Lopas, are avid and well-regarded collectors of art, with a considerable collection of paintings by preeminent Filipino artists, most notably that of the late Vicente Manansala.

"At a very early age, my siblings and I would accompany our father to the homes of Manansala, Blanco, Galicano and Sym, and we would watch them do a painting or a sketching session," she says. "He would also make it a point to take us to all the museums during our travels. I remember when we first went to the Louvre, he made sure we saw the "Mona Lisa" first, then the other sections which were more known, like the Impressionist paintings. I suppose seeing something familiar kind of sparks the interest to learn more."

These early and impressionable encounters with art further fueled Chona's interest in the field, and perhaps in some way, served in fortifying her already innate aesthetic sensibilities.

This newfound passion eventually permeated, however unwittingly, into various creative pursuits during her adolescent and adult life. It would surface, for instance, when a cousin would solicit her help in planning a children's party, or when she would be delegated to decorate her grandparents' home in preparation for various New Year's Eve programs.


ROOM with a view

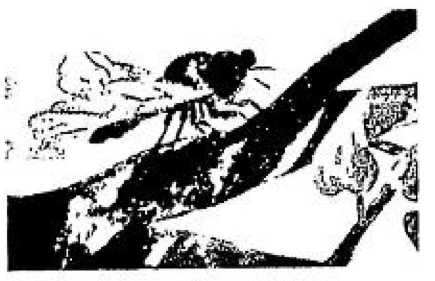
After relinquishing her teaching post, Caedo, together with a friend, Deedee Gonzales, decided to create summer art classes for kids, which she held thrice a week at the Lopa compound.

"We had them make puppets, papier-mache figures, sculptures of animals, and zoo dioramas," she says. "We also had them sketch, paint and make scrapbooks. All we did was to introduce them to the materials, show them ways of manipulating them, and basically left their imaginations to work.".

They also set up a small T-shirt business, aptly named "The Painter," which reproduced famous artworks by Chagall, Renoir, Miro, Matisse and other masters. These soon became popular gifts.

Temporary halt

But this productive enterprise came to a temporary halt when Caedo settled down and became a full-time mother and homemaker to her husband, Corny, and their two kids, José and Juan.


A FLY on the wall

But, over time, and with a little inspiration from her eldest son, she learned to incorporate art into her new domestic life. "I thought, if I can't teach, why not make small art kits for them to take home and do themselves?" she says. "At that time, my son, Jose, was also into making things, and one day he asked me how he can make some money. I told him he had to come up with something to sell. He decided to sell some of his works. So I thought, why not make them into kits? It's kid-tested. We bought materials and containers, made simple instructions and we were ready with a few craft kits which we sold in bazaars."

These days, despite the arduous demands of her business, Caedo's love of children and her creativity remains unfazed. When she isn't engrossed in her latest work, she conducts art workshops once a month for leukemia-stricken children at the Life Foundation, along with her high school friends.

"I am constantly asked as to whether a two- or three-year-old child can do art," she says. "My answer would always be an insistent 'yes.' Art has no right or wrong answers, no numerical grade. To be able to say the names of the colors, to feel wet paint in the hands, to poke dough with their fingers is art in itself."

Chona Caedo may be contacted through 0917-5183212 and mascaedo@hotmail.com

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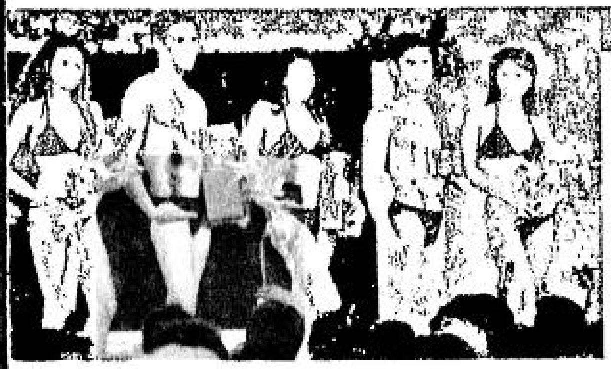
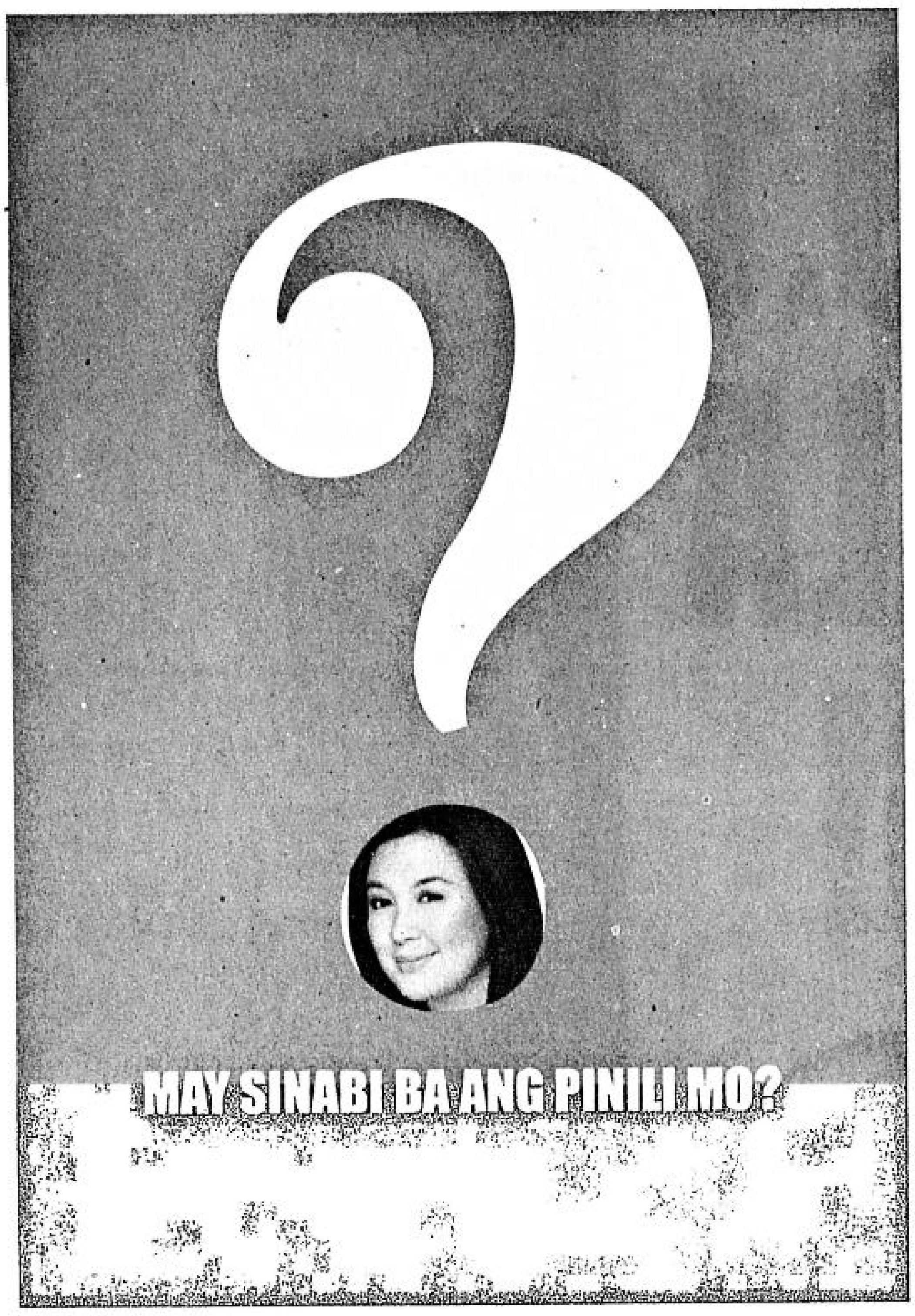
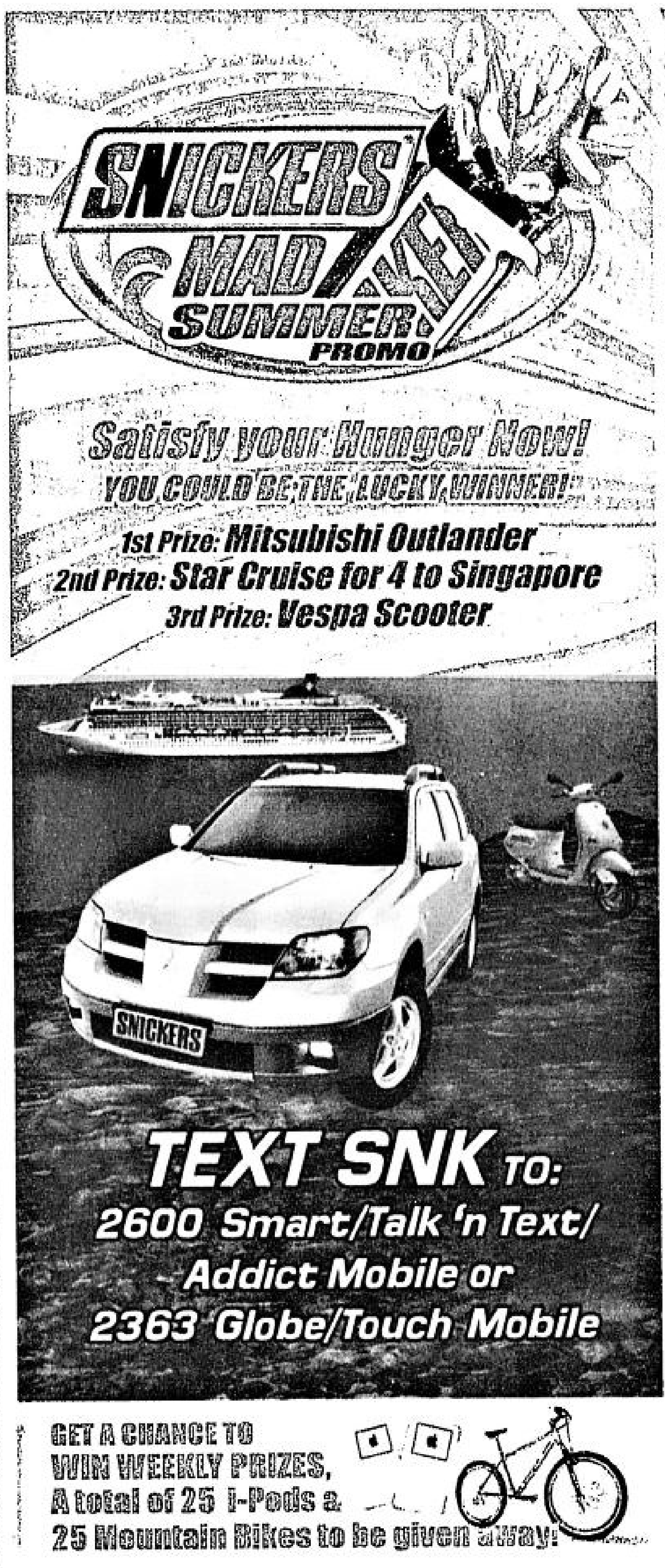


Mossimo Bikini Summit 2004 winners

Champion: Marco Grazzini and Thea Kriegl
First runner up: Myke Salomon and Tee Cordero
Second runner up: Aaron Bower and Asia Laurel
Chivas Smooth Spirit Award: Dane Hutchinson and Jenny Frerkes
Boss Image Model: Marlon Morco
Pearl of the Pacific Choice: Aaron Bower and Thea Kriegl
Gold's Gym Best Physique Award: Myke Salomon and Liz Festejo
Mr. and Ms Hawaiian Tropic: Aaron Bower and Thea Kriegl
Internet Choice Award: Myke Salomon and Jenny Frerkes
Viva's Choice Award: Marco Grazzini and Abby Rangasajo


MAY SINABI BA ANG PINILI MO?



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- Once a mobile number is registered, succeeding raffle codes from the same mobile number should be sent by texting SNK <space> raffle code to the appropriate service numbers.
  Example: SNK <space> HNK123456
- Smart, Talk 'n Text, Addict Mobile and Globe prepaid subscribers will be charged P2.50 per text sent. Globe post paid will be charged P2.00.
- Promo will run from March 22 to June 6, 2004.

PRIZES

- Total Weekly Prizes: 25 Apple I-Pods with 15 GB memory & 25 Mountain Bikes.
- Total Grand Prizes:
  First : Mitsubishi Outlander
  Second : Star Cruise for 4 to Singapore, including roundtrip airfare, accommodation 4 days/3 nights, meals
  Third : Vespa Scooter, Automatic
- All entries are cumulative. Non-winning entries still qualify for the succeeding weekly and grand draws. The more entries you send, the more chances of winning.
- Participants can win only one weekly and one grand prize. Weekly electronic draws will be held every Monday, 4:00pm beginning April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, May 31 and last weekly and grand draw is on June 7. Draws will be held in the presence of representatives from MFPI, TMS and BFAD.

  Weekly cut off of entries will be every Friday, 11:59pm except for the last draw, where cut off will be Sunday, June 6, last day of promotion.
- Draws will be held at Xurpas office, Unit 706 Windsor Towers, Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.
- Probable winners will be sent notice by registered mail informing them about a verification procedure before declaration of winner.
- Snickers® wrapper/sticker with the winning entry must be sent to Tuchak Marketing Services, 55 West Capitol Drive, Barangay Kapitolyo, Pasig City, via LBC FREE of charge for verification.
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- Verified winners will be sent registered mail declaring their entry and proof of purchase valid and informing them where and how to claim their prize.
- Prizes may be claimed at Tuchak Marketing Services, 55 West Capitol Drive, Barangay Kapitolyo, Pasig City or shipped to the winners at their cost. MFPI or TMS, however, will not be held responsible for loss or damages.
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- All trips include accommodation and meals; winners should, however, provide their own pocket money, travel documents like passports, visas and travel taxes.
- Winners must also be willing to be photographed for press releases and for winners' ad announcing names of all winners to be issued after promo duration.
- Employees of Master Foods Philippines, Inc., all their agencies, suppliers, partners and sponsors, including their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

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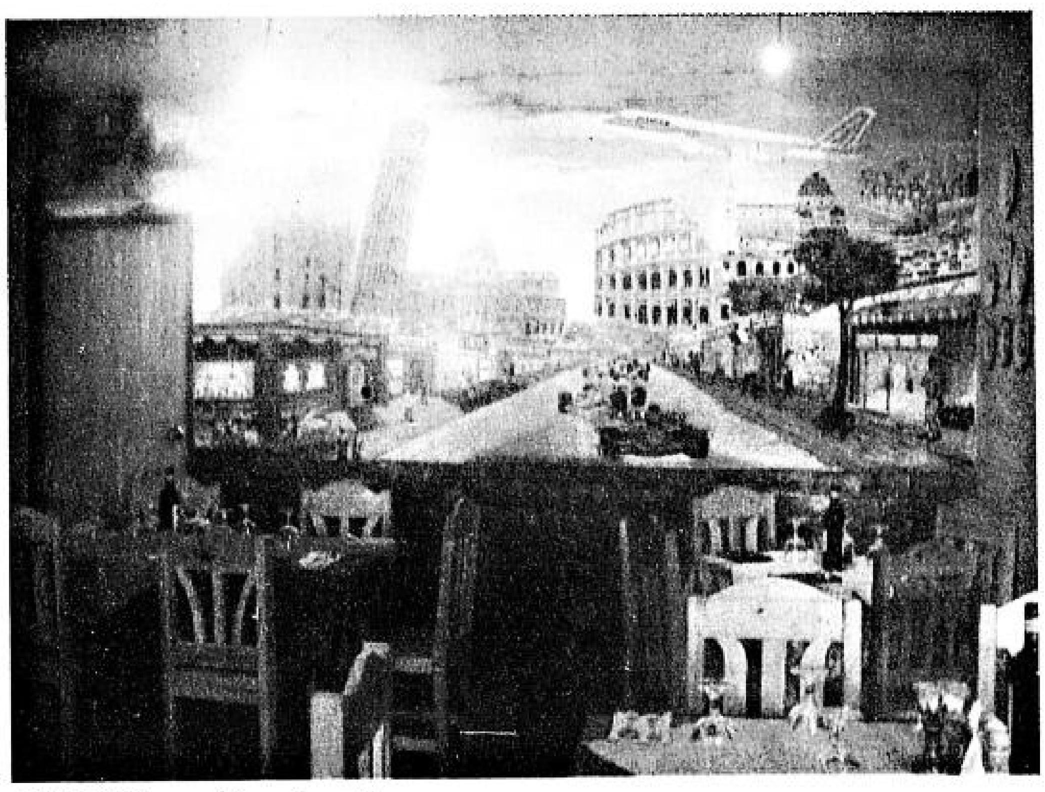


STEPPING into a different world

Right in the heart of chaotic Cubao is Bellini's, a restaurant that serves to-die-for authentic Italian cuisine

Fare for the madding crowd

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

THE STORY of Bellini's started with a great romance. Roberto Bellini was a paparazzo in Italy for 30 years. (Yes, he used to chase celebrities like Madonna, Princess Diana and Princess Caroline of Monaco around with his camera.) In 1986, he found himself in the Philippines on assignment—he was covering the Edsa Revolution. It was inside the Malacañang Palace that he met Ma. Luisa, the woman who would become his wife.

After over a decade in Italy, three children and a trip back to the Philippines, Bellini's was born.

Quaint resto

"Bellini's is this quaint little restaurant in Cubao which has good service and great food! It's run by Roberto, this charming Italian guy who hops from one table to another and makes you feel at home."

That was Jet Valle's response to my SMS campaign for people to spill their Manila secrets.

Just two days later, I found myself face to face with Roberto in his restaurant, which is smack dab in the middle of the Marikina Shoe Expo in Cubao.

The place was cozy, the walls were covered with photographs that Roberto had taken during his days as a journalist, as well as murals and plates that had been signed by celebrity patrons. And yes, there are a lot of them.

Apparently, a huge number of actors, actresses, musicians, broadcast journalists and politicians are privy to the great secret that is Bellini's.

One prominent signature was that of food expert Doreen Fernandez's. Roberto spoke fondly of her, saying she used to drop by almost weekly with friends and family. He even remembers which dishes she liked best.

THE MAN and his muse. Roberto and Ma. Luisa Bellini

That's how Roberto operates the restaurant—he likes to get to know his patrons well. Roberto is not new to the restaurant business. When he was young, he worked as a waiter at his father's restaurant—Bellini's Pizzeria Ristorante, which was beside the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

While Roberto takes care of public relations, Ma. Luisa is the captain of the kitchen. She spent 15 years in Italy perfecting her recipes.

Everything is made fresh in Bellini's, from the pasta and the sauces to the bread and baked goodies. Roberto proudly says that they have 365 sauces, one for each day of the year.

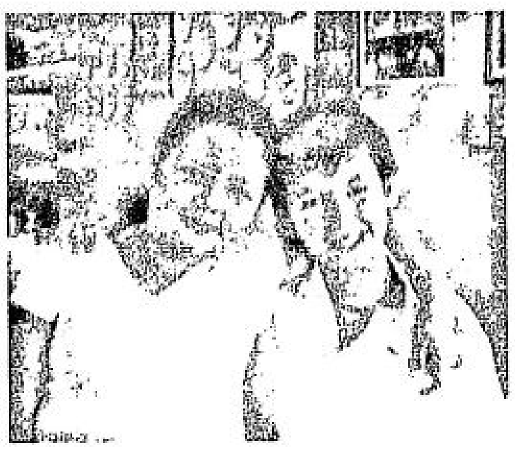
Absolute delight

That day, Roberto and Ma. Luisa showed us the real meaning of an authentic Italian meal.

We started with crostini with salmon. The

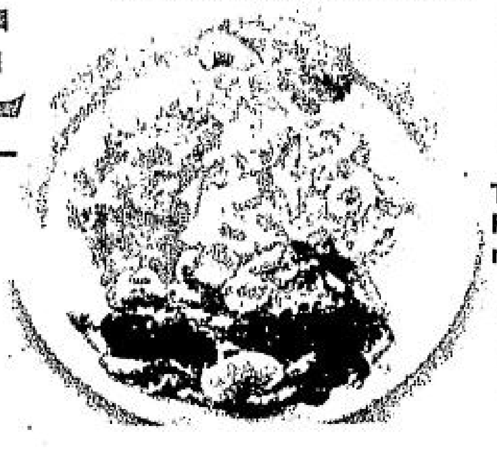
FARE/ E2

HEAVEN for pasta lovers



SIBLING REVELRY. Jasmine and Roberto Jr.

COZY interiors



TRITTICO Pasta. (Clockwise from top) Fettuccine with fresh truffle cream, penne mixed seafood and pappardelle bolognese

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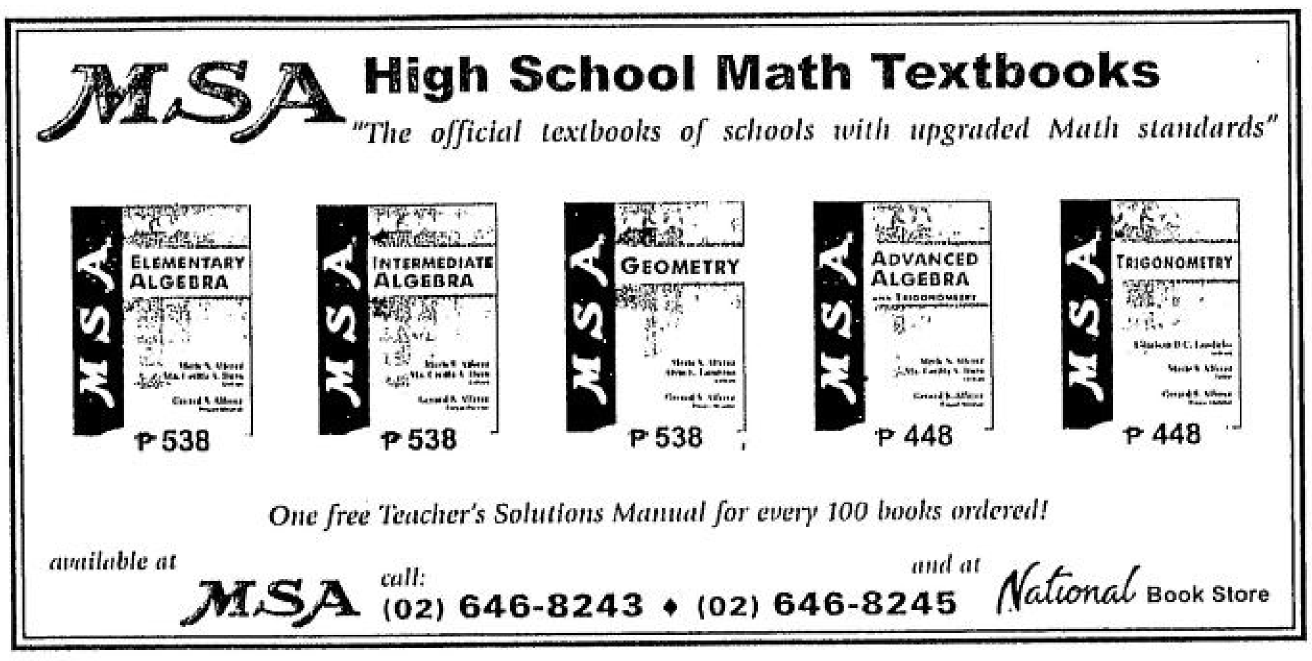
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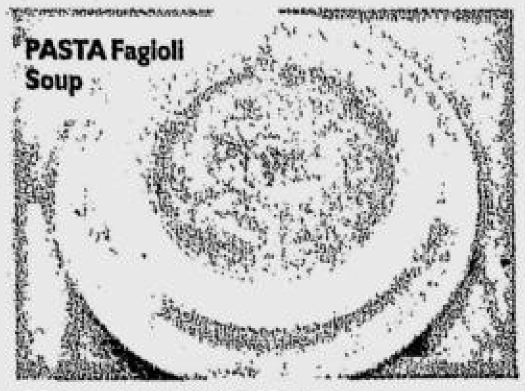
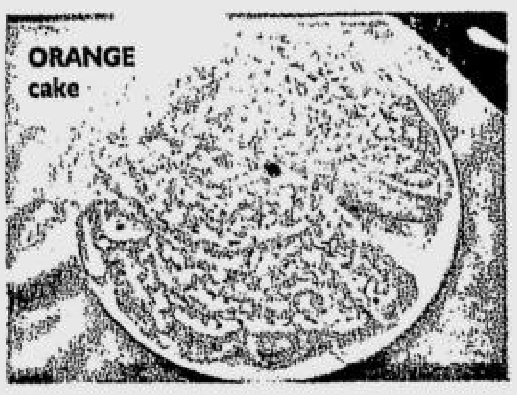
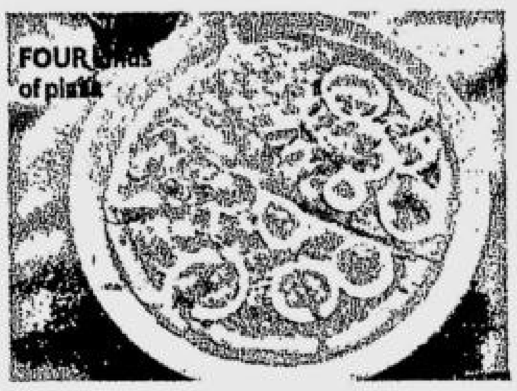
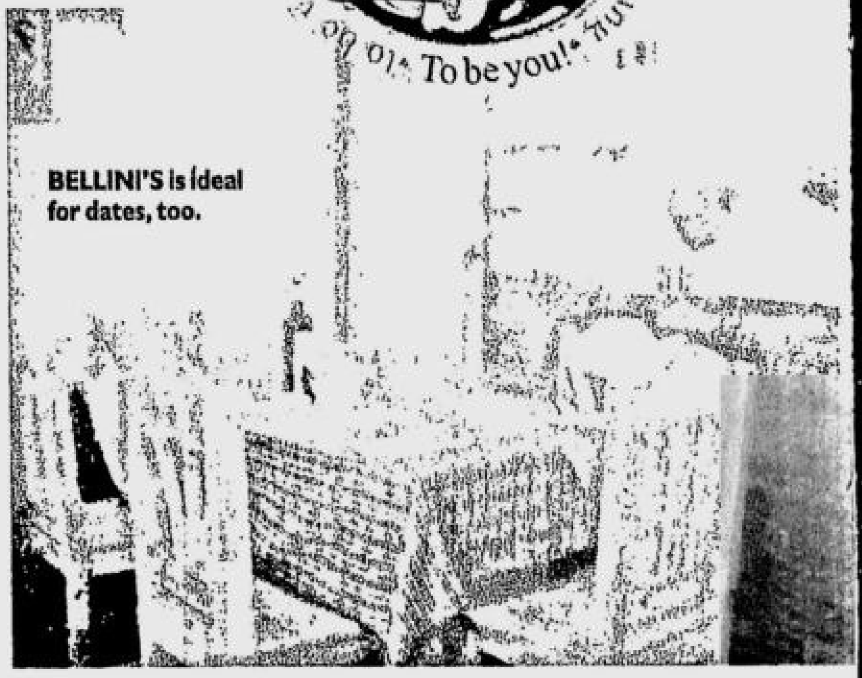
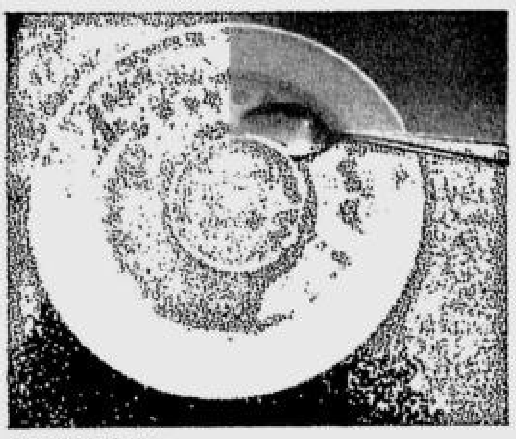




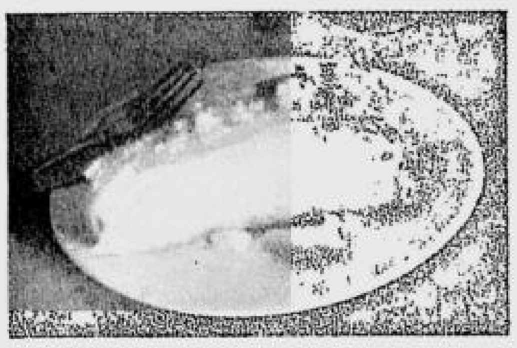




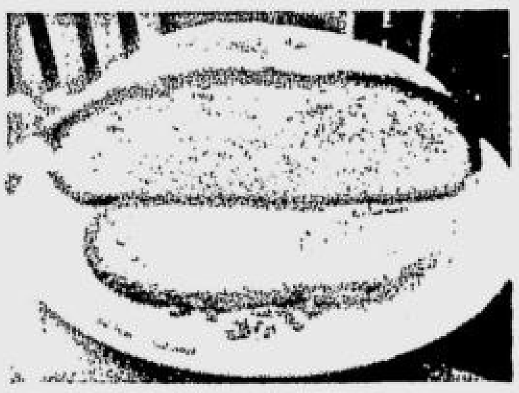


PANNA Cotta

Fare for the madding crowd



CITRUS burst. A slice of orange cake



FRESHLY baked Italian bread

From page E1

salmon contrasted perfectly with the texture of the bread, which had been smothered with butter. It was an absolute delight.

The Pasta Fagioli Soup came next. It was a symphony of flavors, rich without being overpowering. The trittico pasta offered something for different tastes. Pappardelle bolognese (pappardelle pasta with minced meat and tomatoes) is a great choice for meat lovers. Penne mix seafood is a must-try for shellfish aficionados, while the fettuccine with fresh truffle cream is for people with sophisticated palates.

The heavenly meal ended with two desserts—orange cake and panna cotta. The orange cake was served warm. It was delicious, buttery with a subtle orange flavor. The panna cotta was so smooth and creamy that it literally melted in your mouth.

After the meal, I had my first taste of limoncello and Roberto's sweet wine, which he calls vino samto. I am not a wine drinker, but I can honestly say that I enjoyed Roberto's concoction. On regular days, Roberto goes around the restaurant, offering a free glass to all patrons.

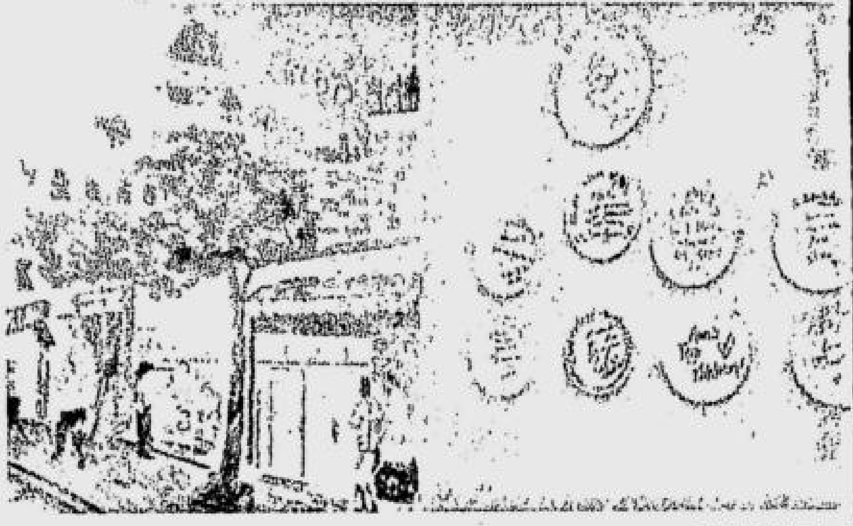
CROSTINI with salmon

That was only a preview. Bellini's extensive and affordable menu of all kinds of pasta, pizza and other Italian goodies would make anyone's mouth water.

"We are not in a commercial area but people come back again and again and again," Roberto said proudly. That is no big surprise. Aside from the good food, there is so much love and warmth in the place.

In the middle of lunch, a family of four came in. After their meal, the parents remained seated while their kids watched cartoons with Jasmine and Jun, two of the Bellini kids. And when they left, the families said loud good byes.

That is dining the Bellini's way. For a few hours, you'd feel almost as if you were part of their happy family. The experience is so enjoyable it's almost hard to leave.



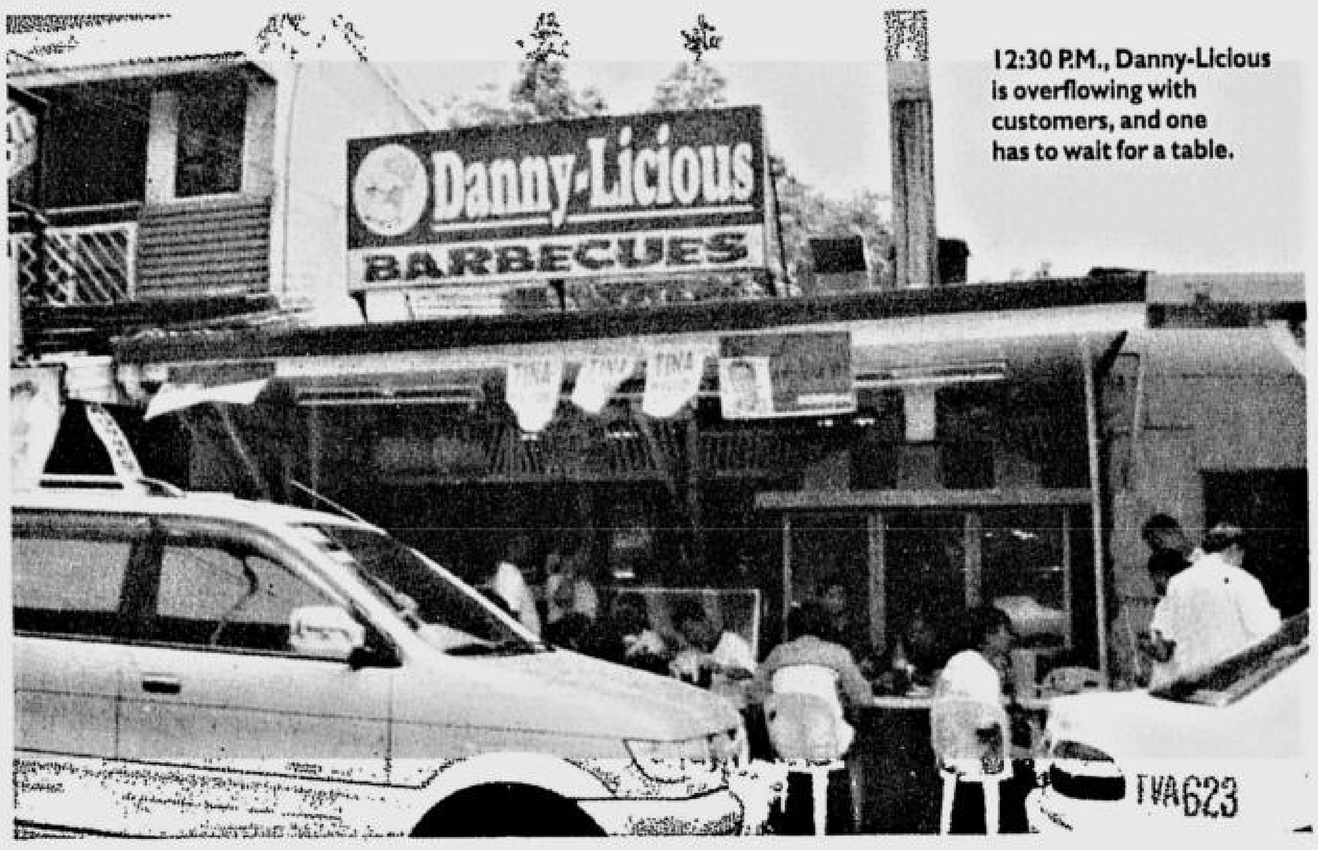
CELEBRITY pl

PESTO mare with mixed seafood

But then you have to. Because if you leave, how can you come back?

Bellini's is located at the Marikina Expo Cubao, Quezon City and is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Call 913255 reservations. Enjoy live Italian music fr 10 p.m., Wednesdays to Saturdays.

E-mail the author at ppastor@in er.com.ph.



12:30 P.M., Danny-Licious is overflowing with customers, and one has to wait for a table.

WHAT *ulam* will await me on my next visit?

Not just your typical 'carinderia'

By Katrina Anne Yap
2bU! Correspondent

IN THE HEART of Project 4, Quezon City lies a curious *carinderia* with an even more peculiar name—Danny-Licious.

Danny-Licious is famous for their barbecue and *inihaw na liempo*, especially to students from schools in the Katipunan area. They are, after all, some of Danny-Licious' loyal customers. They frequent Danny-Licious for the cheap and easy fix. Students living away from home also love coming to Danny-Licious for the *lutong-bahay* meals.

The restaurant has been around for a long time, although it was only two years ago that it received a major makeover. In 1983, Mr. Danilo (yup, he's Danny) and Mrs. Crisanta Gaviola opened a small *carinderia* on the same street. While it proved to be a good business for years, it eventually went down. Luckily, one of Mang Danny's friends suggested a bright idea that would make his restaurant more eye-catching and appealing.

Mang Danny's friend suggested the name "Danny-Licious" as it was catchy.

Their friend also suggested putting up a signboard so the restaurant would attract more attention. The Gaviolas liked it. Everything fell into place at the right time, as the Gaviolas were able to get a better location for the restaurant. The new location could easily be seen by motorists who happened to pass by the area.

That sure worked—Filipinos just love wordplays. And the bright blue "Danny-Licious Barbecues" sign sure grabbed the attention of curious food trippers (and hungry college kids). Ah, the power of advertising.

MR. and Mrs. Danny-Licious. Married for 29 years, in the resto business for 21 years

MANG Danny attending to customers

Business was booming again, and the restaurant started getting good reviews. Several print publications as well as TV shows featured Danny-Licious, claiming its barbecues are one of the best. Just how good are their barbecues? Let's just say they sell a hundred kilos' worth of barbecues a day.

But it's not only barbecues and *inihaw* they serve. They're the staples, but Danny-Licious also has Mechado, Lechon Kawali, Dinuguan, Bicol Express, Papaitan na Baka, Tilapia, Adobong Baboy, Gulay sa Gata and Ampalaya. The menu changes everyday, so you'll never really know what good food awaits you on your visit.

The appeal of Danny-Licious also goes beyond the food. Its being a *carinderia* is one of its very strengths—rich kids and professionals who haven't tried eating in places like such always find it a good place to start. So when you visit Danny-Licious, don't be surprised if you'll be sharing a table with doctors, drivers, showbiz celebrities, street kids, or basketball players (Manang Crisanta is proud to mention that the likes of Marlou Aquino, Ronnie Magsanoc and Poch Juinio have visited their restaurant).

We put some of their food (and their prices) to a test one super-hot Saturday noon and were very pleased with the results:

Two bottles of Coke, P26: Definitely thirst-quenching, *saraaaap*!

One stick of barbecue, P18: On the expensive side, but worth a try. Different from the other barbecues we've tasted. The marinade is sweet, sour and salty (but far from being Nano-Nano). Truly one of the best.

MY boyfriend obviously enjoying the food

One order of Inihaw na Liempo, P65: Also kind of expensive for a *carinderia*, but also very good. The way it was cooked complements the vinegar and soy sauce they serve.

One order of Adobong Baboy, P40: The serving size was big. The pork was swimming in oil, but it was so yummy we finished it anyway. This Adobo was my favorite *ulam*.

Two cups of plain rice, P10: Big serving size, enough to keep you full until *merienda* time.

The meals also came with free soup. So that's only P159 good for two people! Not bad at all.

So if you're craving for a great meal without leaving a hole in your pocket, try Danny-Licious. I know I can't wait to go back.

Danny-Licious is at 25 Rajah Matanda St., Project 4, QC. Call 4407996. Open daily at 8 a.m.-12 mn., 10 a.m.-12 mn. on Sundays).

E-mail the author at trina_yap@edsamail.com.ph

ESTREL'S cakes are distinguished by t

By Cheryl Tiu
2bU! Correspondent

ONE of my best friends' birthday was coming up, and a mutual friend texted me and suggested that we give her a cake from Estrel's.

At the time, I was still unfamiliar with the name, but my friend adamantly insisted that it was "really, really good." Sure enough, come my friend's birthday, she thanked me profusely and gushed about how the cake was "soooo good."

So what is this place that made two of my friends drool in delight?

Masterpiece

Estrel's Caramel Cakes was established in 1946 by the late Estrella Ylagan. Her hobby and love for baking led her to concoct a culinary masterpiece. She sourced a chiffon cake recipe from a box of cake flour, improvised from there, and basked it in silky caramel icing. The result has been a perennial bestseller.

Or let's put it this way: as soon as I sank my teeth into the fluffy chiffon cake delectably adorned by the golden caramel icing, I savored the bliss for as long as I could, before I reflexively (almost impatiently) dug my fork right back into the box of cake. Never mind that I broke all rules of decorum, the cake was too divine to ignore!

Estrel's is currently run full-time by Joy (niece) and Alice (sister) to Tita Estrella. Apart from their best-selling caramel icing, they also have

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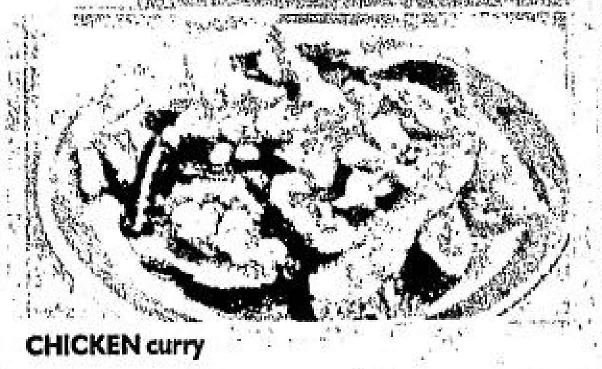
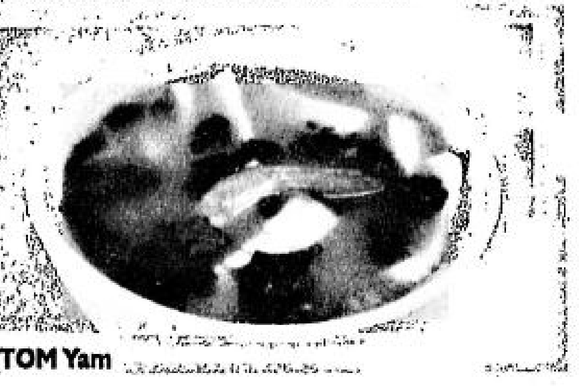

CHICKEN curry

MIXED toppings

OMELETTE


TOM Yam

Thai treats on the cheap

By Zee Castro
2bUI Correspondent

THAI Canteen is probably one of the best kept secrets in the UP Diliman-Balara, Katipunan area. Frequented by cost-conscious UP people, Atenistas and Maryknollers, office employees and even occasional yuppies, this eatery boasts of delectable, authentic Thai cuisine.

The resto is run by a kind Thai woman lovingly referred to as Mommy (or Mami, whichever you prefer). It offers meals at absolutely cheap prices. If you're cash-strapped and looking for a hefty lunch, then head out to this eatery and have a rub-your-belly-*busog* experience!

Rice with Mixed Toppings

A heaping amount of sautéed vegetables, squid, beef and chicken, plus a cupful of rice and appetizing sauce, "Mixed" is a definite crowd favorite. At P55, what more can you ask for? Try it with vinegar or *patis*.

Tom Yam

The much-raved about Thai sour soup with chicken, squid, shrimp and vegetables, Tom Yam is perfect for those craving for some sweat-it-out-spiciness. It costs P55, including rice.

Thai Style Egg Omelet (with Chicken)

For only P25, you can enjoy this Thai treat as a snack or as a light meal (just add P5 for rice). It has a slight peanut-y taste.

> Whenever you're in the UP-Diliman area, make sure to drop by Thai Canteen

Chicken Curry

Tagaktak-pawis hot! This dish starts off as "okay," then gradually builds up to urge you to grab for water. It's definitely different from the chicken curry that Filipinos are accustomed to. For starters, it's not yellow. Beef and Squid Curries are also available from time to time.

Other Thai Canteen dishes include Kuay Teaw (Thai Noodle Soup, P40) and Mixed Vegetables with Rice (Thai Style Chopsuey, P30).

However, most of the time, what you see is what you get. Translation: Everything is cooked by heaping batches, so you can only choose from whatever is prepared for the day.

As part of the Thai Canteen experience, expect to personally get your eating utensils from a tin cup filled with warm water, and scoop your own *sawsawan*.

To get there, go straight past Balara from the Ateneo/Miriam Katipunan strip. Thai Canteen is just a few meters away from the road (left turn) going into the UP Campus. It's hard to miss this red-orange eatery on the left.

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heir delicately crafted butter roses.

iece cake!

hocolate (traditionally created as a nilk-based icing) and butter (made rom pure, though undersweet butter).

In contrast to most commercial ake shops, Estrel's creations are made-to-order. It is necessary to pre-order the cakes at least one day in advance to ensure their freshness.

Cakes are baked on the day they re set to be picked up and the expiration date is indicated on a sticker, especially since the shop does not make use of any preservatives. Sometimes, some batches are made available for walk-in customers, but be warned that these are almost always sold out.

"[I would liken our cakes] to eating a homemade cake, baked by someone in the family who can do it really well, like an aunt or *lola*—to satisfy something you're craving for," says Joy. To achieve this homemade flavor, all of Estrel's cakes are baked by hand and the production size is kept really small.

Trademark decor

Estrel's is also known for its trademark cake decor of colorful roses, each one dexterously crafted from butter and very soft and fragile to the touch (as opposed to the hard, sugar roses produced by commercial cake shops).

Some non-cake best-sellers include chocolate-chip cookies, which, with their oatmeal-and-walnut base, come off crisp and crunchy. The *leche flan*, meanwhile, is baked (as opposed to most other *leche flans* which are steamed), resulting in a richer, fuller flavor. The shop also offers apple squares and food for the gods.

Beside the shop, Joy's sister, Gina, runs a creative culinary school. Classes for adults are run all year, with professional chefs like Seiji Kamuta (Seiji), Don Alba (Alba) and Nick Anderson (Café Provencal) holding classes.

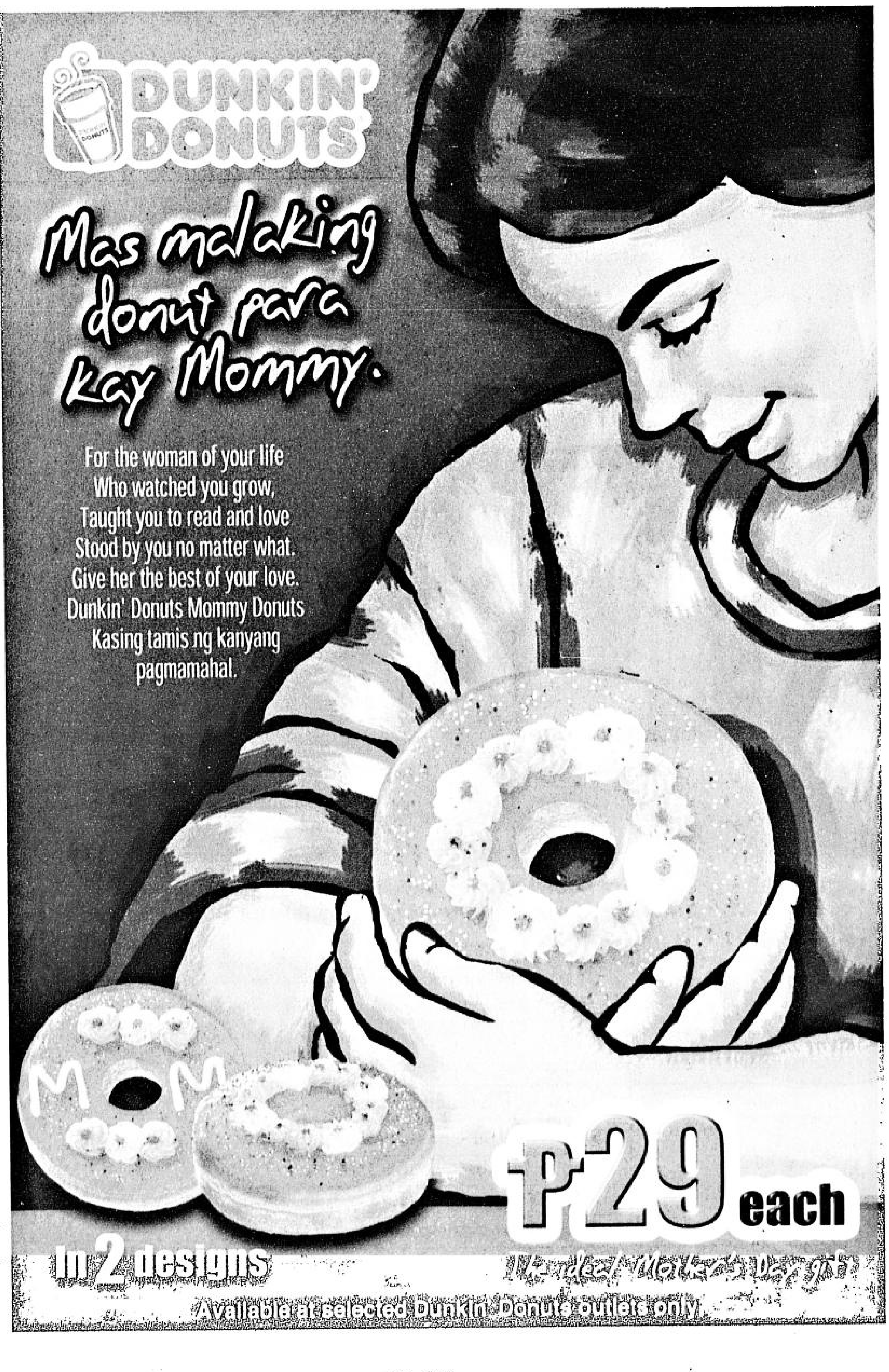
During the summer, classes are offered for children, and Gina herself conducts classes, supplemented by her cookbook creation, "Cooking and Baking for Kiddie Chefs," published by ABS-CBN Publishing.

Another sister, Mia, based in California, also bakes and sells made-to-order cakes on weekends. But Joy says their cakes are so good that some customers have purchased them in Manila only to hand-carry them to the USA!

"My Tita's philosophy has always been that she doesn't want anything to be commercial; she doesn't want mass-produced bake products," she adds. "We've been faithful to that philosophy by continuing the tradition."

Estrel's Caramel Cakes-Creative Culinary School is located at 54 Scout Tobias, Barangay Laging-Handa, Quezon City (a couple of blocks from Timog). Call 3722965 and 3717938.

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com



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Look gorgeous with new lip colors

Vanity Fare

Lora Gabol

WHEN the heat wave strikes and the last thing you want is a face smothered in (melting) makeup, your best bet to get instantly gorgeous is to highlight those lips!

Why? Because foundation and powder just don't give that naturally sun-kissed effect, and to play around with cheek and eye colors may take up way too much time—not good since there are summer activities to do, and generally, not enough summer days to do them.

But since we would not appreciate (and neither would those gorgeous surfer dudes on the beach) looking like something the tide brought in, some minimum effort to look pretty is required. And it comes in a sleek tube of lipstick.

Gone are the days when lipstick was more "theatrical" than natural; modern beauty technology has given us countless shades and formulations that are perfect for every occasion. In this case, allow me to share a few that are cut out for the season of the sun.

Maybelline Water Shine 3D Glitters. Imagine your sorbet-colored Jelly Kelly tote suddenly taking on lipstick form, then falling into a pool of glitters.

Okay, not a very good analogy. Simply put, Water Shine 3D Glitters is everything pretty with a dose of glam. I love how it's so sheer, it almost feels like a lip stain and that it's subtly shiny—none of the traffic-stopping, all-out, goopy shine some lip glosses give.

The glitters don't feel gritty, and don't dry out your lips. Its sleek blue packaging matches your jelly beach bags as well. Fizzy Red is a good bet for an I-just-bit-my-lip effect. Don't get intimidated by the bold scarlet in the tube.

VMV Hypoallergenics Light Brilliance Weightless Lipstick. The current season has no room for heavy cosmetics, thus this innovation from VMV Hypoallergenics.

It's feather-light and barely-there yet with a color intensity that rivals pigment-packed matte formulas. It's also fragrance-free and hypoallergenic, so those who break out around the mouth and chin area will love this formula.

Also, it comes in warm and cool shades that complement Asian skin tones. I'm loving Flores, a bronzy cocoa. One coat and you're good to go for the day. Add some smudged liner and a couple of coats of mascara and you've got a smoldering look for night without going overboard.

Avon Beyond Color. Want lips that rival Angelina Jolie's? If you can't commit to collagen injections, Avon's new lip color is ideal for you.

Its moisturizing formula is chockfull of lip-plumping properties that pump up the kissability of your pucker. I'm addicted to its caramel-like smell. Sometimes, I can't help but lick my lips! Sienna is brown-red for the not-so-daring ones (myself included) who have to get their diva fix once in a while.

Shiseido Perfecting Lipstick. Color and care, what more can you ask for? Beauty mavens with a conscience will love Shiseido's new offering from their Spring/Summer 2004 collection—it does everything the perfect lipstick can do, and much more.

Hydro-Wrap Vitalizing DE Technology smoothes out fine lines and creases on dry lips, while adding a moisture boost, ensuring that lip color stays on and looks perfect. Shy Pink was made with the girly-girl in mind, a soft touch of pink that mimics the slightest blush of a flower in bloom.

Maybelline at PCX and Health and Beauty stores; VMV Hypoallergenics at Watson's and leading department stores; Avon at SM Megamall; Shiseido at Rockwell Power Plant and Glorietta 3

E-mail the author at pdi_vanityfare@hotmail.com

Here are a few that are cut out for the season of the sun

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